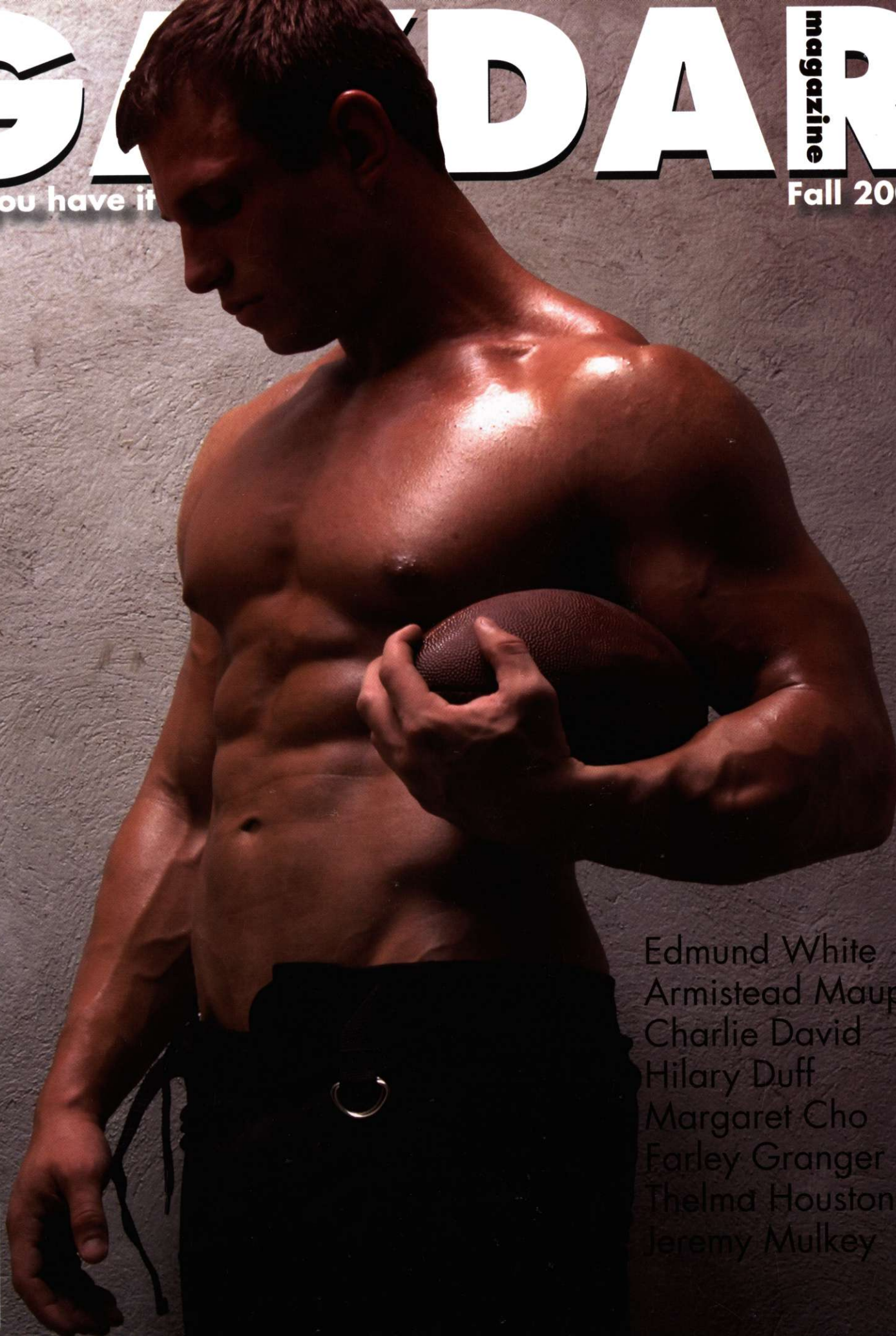


GAYDAR

magazine

Do you have it?

Fall 2007



Edmund White
Armistead Maupin
Charlie David
Hilary Duff
Margaret Cho
Farley Granger
Thelma Houston
Jeremy Mulkey

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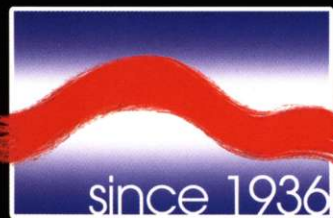




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magazine

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Cover photo and this page courtesy of Jason T. Jascot visit www.JTJphoto.com

Editor's Note: In Memory of Jon-Erik Hexum

Don't be distracted by the cheesy leather pants or '80's pastel shirt. It was 25 years ago that New Jersey native Jon-Erik Hexum made his mark in Hollywood with a short-lived NBC TV show called *Voyagers!* Something about time travelers trying to undo, redo or somehow correct past events for the betterment of the present day. Who the hell knows? All I knew was there was this adult hunk (I'm using 1982 terms for effect) who spoke to my 18 year old mind and libido like no other TV star before him. Tom Selleck was too macho and straight (Ha! What did I know then?), John Ritter was too silly and Charles Nelson Reilly was tooooo gay (God rest his soul). There were no gay role models for me. Was I really gay? I sat vigil waiting for another *Voyagers* ad. Remember, this was waaaaaay before the internet so I couldn't just google Jon-Erik Hexum and know his life history in 10 seconds. Back in the day, we had to wait until the powers that be deemed a person worthy of an interview in *People* magazine. That was all we had. Imagine my frustration. Finally, another ad! Oh, God! He is beautiful. I am definitely gay.

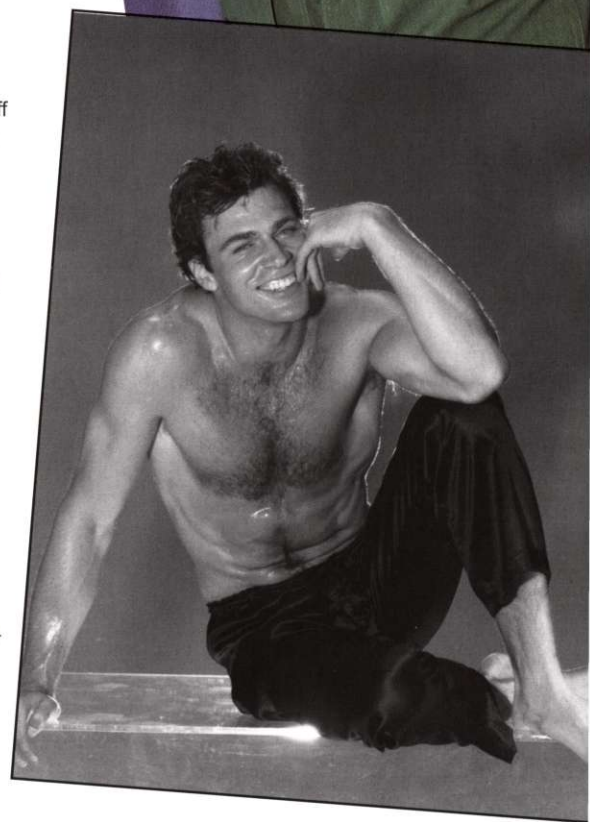
Fortunately, the interest in JEH wasn't based solely on the success of *Voyagers*, which lasted only 20 episodes. My parents could never understand my dedication to this family oriented show or the 15 minutes I needed alone after each episode. The producers knew what they were doing. No matter the era this duo visited, they managed to dress, or undress, Jon-Erik and use his body to titillating results. I wasn't the only one who noticed. Jon-Erik had not only caught the attention of straight women and gay men across America but, also that of Aaron Spelling and Joan Collins. They teamed up on a TV movie called *The Making of a Male Model* (criminally not available on VHS or DVD at this writing. Not even on e-bay! If anyone wants to get on my good side they could send me a copy. Thanks!) *Male Model* was a ratings success. A subsequent Jon-Erik poster sold over 500,000 copies. He did an interview with *Playgirl* and started doing the talk show circuit. After seeing him on *Merv Griffin* I fell even harder for this mortal with a god-like body who oozed sex appeal, conveyed a humble confidence and had a great sense of humor. As with so many before him, rumors started flying about his sexual orientation. But, unlike other male celebs (Hi, Tom Cruise!), Jon seemed to court the controversy. When asked about his gay friends, Jon said, "Yeah, I have gay friends and I like to hang out with them. If people think I'm gay because of it, that's fine with me."

In a phone interview for this piece, Photographer to the Stars, Harry Langdon (check out more of his iconic images on page 50) worked with Jon-Erik on a couple of occasions. "I was called to a portrait session on him because he was an up and coming potential star. Some people just have a knack for standing in front of the camera and being confident. He had just a fabulous presence about him. Jon's shoot was very successful. It was such a shock 6 months or a year later to read about the incident on the set (of his new show, *Cover Up*) where he was just acting flippant." (On October 12, 1984 during a break in filming *Cover Up*, Jon was goofing with the cast and aimed his prop pistol to his temple. Depending on the report he said either "Let's see if I can get myself with this one" or "All these delays are enough to make you want to blow your brains out". Unaware of the damage a blank cartridge can do, he pulled the trigger. The impact was enough to send a quarter-sized fragment of his skull into his brain. In a coma for six days and pronounced brain dead, Hexum was taken off life support and died. He was 26 years old.)

Some have called Jon-Erik Hexum the first of the metro-sexuals. What is not up for debate is that this man was my first full-on crush and helped me realize I really was gay. He would have been 50 this year. I still miss the work he would have produced.

It was also in the early 1980's that I first discovered gay fiction. (Loose association is alive and well here at *Gaydar Magazine*!) Edmund White and Armistead Maupin were the first two authors I read, so it was a thrill to interview them for this issue. Screen legend Farley Granger, R&B songstress Thelma Houston, outrageously funny Margaret Cho, pop star Hillary Duff, reality hunks JP Calderon & Aaron Savvy, under&swimwear gurus Ristefsky & Mecheda, multi-threats Charlie David and Jesse Archer and smokin'hot coverboy Jeremy Mulkey are also interviewed. Don't miss our reviews on Harry Potter, Vienna, some tasty ales, CDs, DVDs and the new Jeep, all or any of which would make great gifts for those on your holiday list (hint, hint!) Top that off with *GayNews*, *Gays Gave What*, *Lunchtime Cosmetics*, *Pride History*, *Bleeding Heart T's* and ads from some of the best businesses around and we hope you feel you've got yourself one hell of a good read. Thanks for continuing to support our efforts and the happiest of holidays to you and yours.

Stephen T. Libby
Editor-in-Chief
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Correction: Our apologies to Scott Nevins for the interview in Issue number 9. We used an uncorrected file and the copy editor missed it. The copy editor is now the office custodian. We appreciate Scott's understanding and urge you to seek out Celebutant: Don't You Know Who I Think I Am? He is hilarious! And HOT!!-SL

Queer News in Quotes

by Liz Bradbury

"To cheat on petitions in an election is to really rob people of freedom. I still think the real culprit is Rep. Brinkman." -- Cincinnati Superior Court Judge Robert Ruehlman on the sentencing of two low-level paid petitioners who were convicted of fabricating signatures (Fidel Castro, among others) and manually altering hundreds of ineligible addresses in a drive to repeal the Cincinnati's new anti-discrimination law. Right wing Ohio State Representative Tom Brinkman Jr., was paid \$40,000 to manage the (unsuccessful) petition effort.

"The issues are obviously very heavily influenced by the significant powers of delegates. So there's likely to be strong platform planks about equal rights, "don't ask, don't tell," hate crimes..." -- Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee on the DNC's first American Majority Partnership Summit in August, where more than 100 LGBT activists were among the 600 minority delegates gathered to strategize the Democratic Party's goals.

"Merv Griffin was gay. Why should that be so uncomfortable to read? Why is it so difficult to write? Why are we still so jittery even about raising the issue in purportedly liberal-minded Hollywood in 2007?" -- columnist Ray Richmond.

"Allowing gay couples to marry is not going to repair the fabric of society, but it's not going to tear it apart either." - NJ State Sen. Raymond Lesniak who had not previously supported full marriage rights. A NJ Zogby poll shows that 63 percent of New Jersey voters say they would not object if the state legislature granted same-sex couples full marriage rights.

"I am not gay. I never have been gay. I did nothing wrong at the Minneapolis airport." - anti-gay US Senator Larry Craig, R-Idaho at a news conference. Craig had plead guilty to soliciting a male undercover cop for sex in an airport restroom.

"...And by the way, why are Minneapolis tax dollars being used to have plainclothes police officers lurking idly in airport restroom stalls?"

-- Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"Books aren't banned nearly as much now as they used to be." -- Judith Krug of the American Library Association, regarding "And Tango Makes Three," an award-winning children's book based on a true story about two male penguins who raised a baby penguin, that tops the ALA's annual list of works attracting the most complaints from parents, library patrons and others. The ALA will hold its 26th annual Banned Books Week from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6.

The fact that he's comparing the consequences of the allegations of his sexual misconduct to the plight of dissidents trapped in Castro's gulag is at best absurd and at worst insulting. He needs to go." -- Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera, R-Miami, on Florida Republican Rep. Bob Allen's apparent slur against Florida's Latino leadership as Allen tried to defend his current gay sex scandal (another undercover cop in a restroom sting!)

"Well, I was the chief deputy whip of the Democrats at the time. President Clinton was president. And at the time the objective in passing DOMA was to fight a huge assault on a constitutional amendment in the Congress to ban marriage." -- New Mexico Gov. and candidate for president Bill Richards' erroneous quote on The Federal Marriage Amendment, which actually had not even been discussed in 1996 and certainly was not a factor in the passage of DOMA.

"I suspect that some of these relationships were sexual, while others may not have been...They loved each other, and the community accepted that." -- Shippensburg University assistant professor of history Allan Tulchin, from a September article in the Journal of Modern History on same-sex civil unions that appear to have existed 600 years ago in late medieval France.

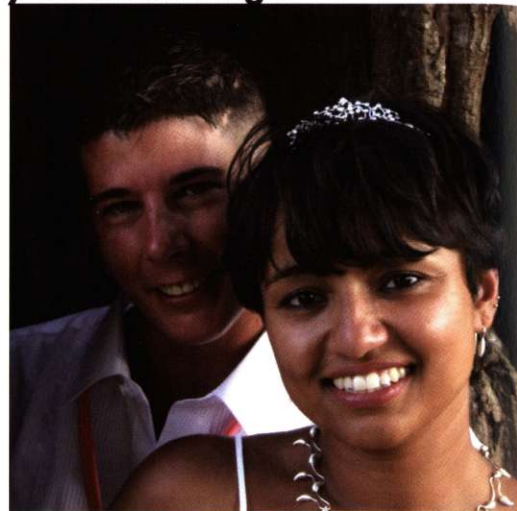
"This is the first time the Smithsonian has ever included displays of gay civil rights artifacts. This exhibit gives (the gay rights) story equal treatment alongside other movements." -- Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc. on the inclusion of the Frank Kameny Collection.

April - (Ford Co.) Gives \$10,000 donation to PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)." -- rabidly anti-gay Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman American Family Association on why people should boycott Ford.

Bradbury is a full time volunteer advocate for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. She is Executive Director of Pennsylvania Diversity Network, the publisher of the Valley Gay Press newspaper, the creator of the PDN Photo Project and runs PDN's resource web site at www.padiversity.org. She has written over 100 published nonfiction essays and articles on GLBT issues and also writes lesbian mystery/romance novels.

GAYDAR

Heather and Samina by Tania Santiago



One day. Two women. Countless friends, family and memories to last a lifetime. A lifetime. Heather Deppen and Samina Wahhab committed to each other on June 16, 2007, to share a lifetime together. Heather and Samina first met 2 years ago. From the start of this journey they have felt a connection and a bond for each other. To be in their circle of friends the love they share is apparent, the joy is contagious, and the happiness undeniable. When in the presence of Heather and Samina you have no option left to you but to smile and appreciate the love these women share with their two children and each other. Samina is a plastic Surgeon practicing out of Allentown, and Heather is a stay at home mother for the two children. Although their lives are hectic and busy these 2 still find time for a structured family oriented lifestyle, which has lead to them to this day.

The ceremony took place on a beach in Lewes, DE. It began on the beach. All guests were to meet and then were escorted to the sand lined with tiki torches. It was a beautiful day meant for a wonderful occasion to occur. For both wedding parties there was an apparent beach theme. Barefoot, rolled up khakis, shades, flowing coral dresses, the tiki torches, guests adorned in beachwear, all were effects from this ceremony. Having a true beach ceremony was a dream come true for both the women. Their children assisted in the final joining of the family with a pouring of the symbolic sand. With respect to true Caribbean fashion there was a steel drum player in the background, as well as the waves and wind from the surf. Guests were then asked to join Heather and Samina at their bed breakfast for a reception that also proved to offer many more memories. The beach theme was continued into the reception, with jerk chicken, a certain rum mix, and a generous portion of reggae music.

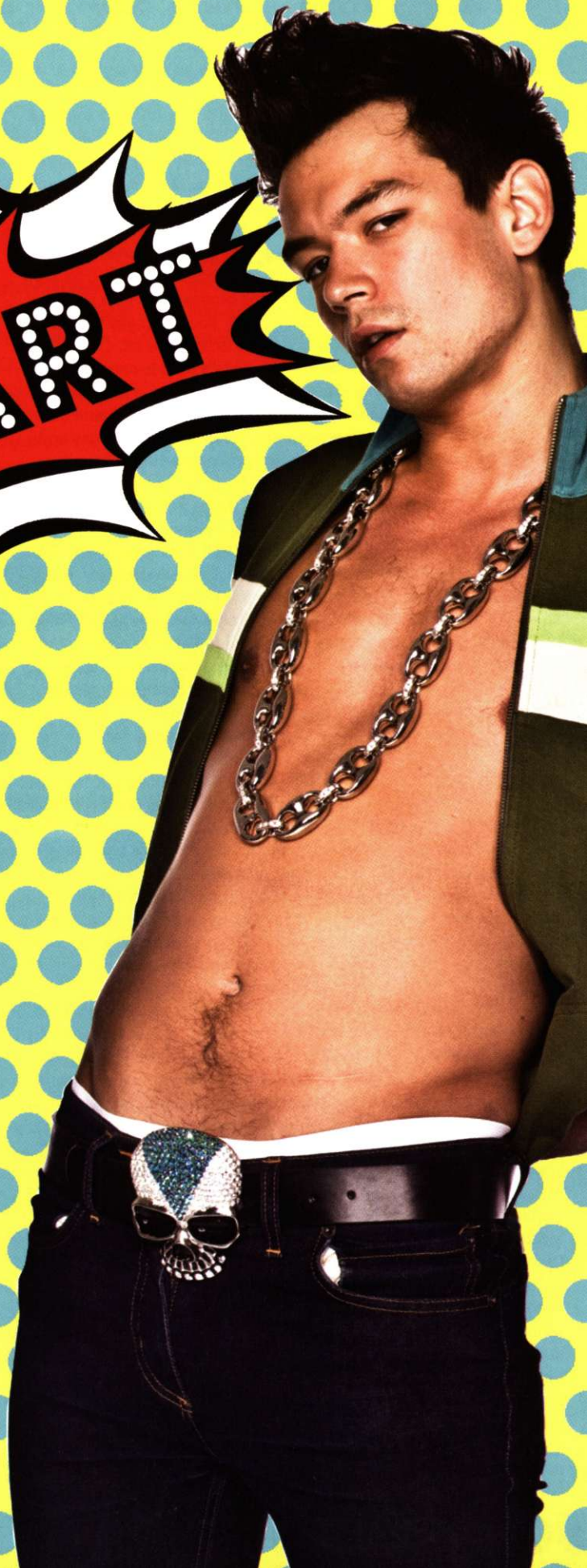
Come Sunday, all was quiet and the only reminder of the events taking place from the day prior were the still standing tents from the reception along with Heather and Samina as the couple awoke for the first time joined in commitment to each other. To further complete this love story their desire for commitment did not stop here. Heather and Samina then traveled to Canada in private to become a legally joined union. This journey although is complete with the steps in commitment is just beginning for the family as the real love is about to unfold in what we call a committed life together.

A red, jagged, comic book-style speech bubble or explosion shape containing the word "POP MART" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a white dotted pattern. The background of the entire advertisement is a yellow field with a repeating pattern of blue polka dots.

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Pride: What Is It Good For?

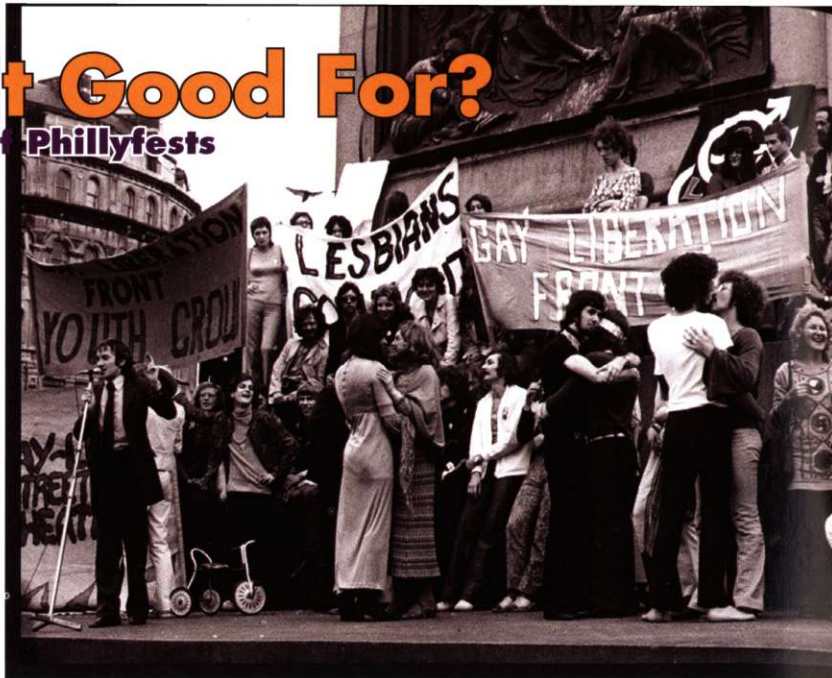
By Anthony Rizzo Photo Courtesy of Phillyfests

So there you are. Sitting at the bar, talking and flirting. Every now and then, you make your way out to the dance floor and grind with that hottie you have been cruising all night. The song ends, and you turn around to continue a conversation with your friend. You find your friend is carded the filed outside with others who have been put out as well. You are confused. What for? You end up outside with the others. At this time it is commonplace for this occurring, albeit frustrating and overall just an abomination. Finally, someone stands up, and rebelled against the police. Things start flying at the officers from all around you. News of the raid, and gay rebellion against the un-supported arrests, spreads. Soon, hundreds of people are fighting back with you for no other reason than for your gay sisters and brothers and your rights as normal human beings. Could you imagine? You're too gay for this world, so they put you in cuffs and attempt to haul you off.

This situation is so ridiculous in 2007 that it's hard to imagine it happening to you. But it did happen. I am referring to a particular famous moment in time known as "The Stonewall Riots". Some of you may know about it. In case you don't, it was the birth of gay pride. Without this pivotal moment in time, you probably wouldn't have a parade to go to, or wide range support from others in our Gay community. On June 28, 1969, at 1:30 in the morning, police and detectives entered the Stonewall Inn, in New York, NY with the intentions of cleaning up the city of gays for the upcoming mayoral elections for John Lindsay. He had lost the primary election and tried to gain back some republican votes on a reform platform. Raids of gay bars and clubs were not rare at this time in history, but for whatever reason, this time, we stood up. The gay community of about two thousand fought back that night against four hundred officers. There were so many people it was hard to tell who was who. The officers ended up just singling out the butch lesbians, flamboyant gays, and cross dressers, beating them with what they could. Bottles and rocks were strewn across Greenwich Village for three days. It got to the point where the Tactical Patrol Force, or TPF, who were trained for Vietnam protests, came to break up the riot. It didn't work. No one was killed, thankfully, but four officers and an indeterminate number of civilians were injured. If you want to know more details on the Stonewall Inn and the riots, and I hope you do, I suggest you Google it. It's been great to me.

So what am I getting at with all this, anyway? First, I am curious to see how many of you actually knew this little story, a benchmark in gay history. If I had to bet, only 10% of the younger generation that keeps our pride days alive knows this story, and maybe only half of them knew its significance of it in collaboration with their Pride days. I myself am guilty of this ignorance. At times, sad to say, I was turned off by Pride. I thought to myself, "Why are we parading around, flaunting our sexual preference and flamboyancy or butchiness?" I didn't understand. It seemed like just an excuse to hook up with some hot person you were cruising throughout the festival. Although at times I didn't protest that reason, I just felt like there had to be more to us all to coming together on that one day.

I wanted to write another article for Gaydar Magazine, and when Steve got back to me, he asked me to write about Pride and the Stonewall Riots. I honestly had no idea what I was getting into, until I read up on the history of Pride. Once I knew about Stonewall, pride swelled through me, and I couldn't wait to tell everyone the story, and the reason that we all get together once a year in celebration. Of course, no matter what knowledge I acquire and share, it won't change what Pride has seemed to become: Commercialized and a hook up hot spot. I suppose it isn't all bad, but it seems we, the new generation of homosexuals, have no respect for why we are really there. We watch the parade go by, and see all the hot guys dancing half-naked for some lube product. What does that have to do with Stonewall? Nothing, except that is also gay, with its rainbow colors and techno music playing in the background. I like techno and rainbows as much as the next guy, so don't misunderstand me. I was merely pointing out that the origin is long erased from our minds like it was a black spot on our history. It should be memorialized! I want to see a float about that. Give everyone a dose of reality. We are still fighting for our rights; just



look at everyone jumping on the bandwagon for gay marriage. There was always a reason to fight for something in our community. No matter what we have done, we will always struggle for true acceptance because there will always be that jerk behind us at the grocery store whispering "faggot," or "dyke".

Although we continue to fight, upstream at times, we do it together. With pride. We were given a chance to do it together and show each other the support we really need to make our world a more accepting place. A chance created almost overnight at the Stonewall Inn. A chance that was honored by Pride, its marches and festivals. A chance that has become something different. An excuse to almost "rub it in" to others' faces while partying and dancing a little too friendly to the person next to you and planning the moment you go get free condoms or dental dams together. Now, it's a chance to get laid and party hard on this one day just because you're a friend of Dorothy and not because you are honoring Pride's roots. I am wondering how many rainbow flag shot glasses and glow in the dark condoms will be going around at Pride this year. It is almost sickening. Again, please don't misunderstand me. Partying is fun and promoting safe sex is great. The people who plan Pride do it with the best intentions and thank goodness for the hearts of those volunteers. I enjoy Pride days none-the-less, and I also understand that not everyone is ignorant. But the overall view of Pride from me and the younger gay crowd is generally something distorted, with all the live dating and parties that blinded some with its glitter from Pride's true colors. Waving a gay flag and saying you're gay and proud is one thing, but truly feeling that pride and acknowledging the support we now have and what us as a people went through to get us this far gives that flag more weight.

I personally would like to think that I would have stood up for myself and joined the riots, but I honestly don't know what I would have done. I have such admiration to all those who fought for themselves and others in our community. For the future, I plan to have a big part in our gay community, and I hope to make a difference. I know that Pride means something much more to me now and is closer to my heart now more than ever. It will at least be something different for me, now that I have seen my ignorant ways and saw Pride's true roots. I hope I can encourage all to do their part for Pride, for all those who have struggled to get us this far, and for the future rights and acceptance of our next generations. If not for others, do it for yourself. I speak from experience in saying that the knowledge I have just given you has filled me with such passion for the rights and well being of fellow homosexuals, I almost don't know what to do with all my pride!

Suggestion: Next time you are having a good time at your favorite club, remember Stonewall. Then, the next time Pride rolls around in your area, share the knowledge with others. Step back from the scene for a moment and take in how far we have come, and why we are all there. Then remember how far we have yet to go, and use your Pride to fuel our way into a bright, rainbow-covered future.

"Lunchtime" Cosmetics:

Medical-based Cosmetic Procedures to Look Your Best

by Keith C. Lantz, MS

Everyone wants to look younger and healthy, but most of us don't have the time or money. Medical science has improved on a number of affordable noninvasive cosmetic procedures that most people can have done at a doctor's office or "medical spa" during their lunch breaks. Described below are three "lunchtime" procedures that may help you look your best. Other procedures are available and a qualified physician can recommend treatments that best suit your needs and your wallet.

Botox

The scoop: Botox Cosmetic® is a trade name for botulinum toxin A. Botox is related to botulism, a form of food poisoning that occurs when someone eats something containing a neurotoxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. When Botox is injected into the muscles, those muscles (such as in your brow or around your eyes) can not "scrunch up" for a period of time. The muscles become paralyzed and the wrinkles in that area often referred to as furrows or frown lines, temporarily disappear.

Treatment: A physician administers Botox in a diluted form using multiple fine needle injections; however men may require additional Botox injections or a higher strength. No anesthesia is required. After the Botox injections, one can resume normal activities. However, it is important not to lie down for at least 4 hours after Botox treatment. Also, it is suggested that the affected muscles are contracted as often as possible for the first few hours. This helps to increase the uptake of Botox by the muscles thereby helping to maximize the effect.

Effects: The effect of Botox can be dramatic by minimizing or eliminating facial creases, especially considering that no surgery is done. The effect lasts around 4 months. There is evidence to suggest that with repeated injections over time the effect may last longer.

Risks: Botox is considered very safe. There can be bruising and some soreness following the injections, but this is very temporary and usually responds to ice packs. In less than 5% of patients there can be temporary drooping of the eyelid after forehead injections. This can appear 1-2 weeks after the procedure, and may last 4-6 weeks.

Cost: Botox treatments can range from \$250 to \$600 depending on extent and site of injections.

Before you talk to a doctor regarding noninvasive cosmetic treatment you might want to consult the following Web sites for additional information on noninvasive cosmetic procedures:

American Society of Plastic Surgeons: <http://www.plasticsurgery.org/>

Botox Cosmetic: <http://www.botoxcosmetic.com/>

American Academy of Dermatology: <http://www.skincarephysicians.com/>

Collagen

The scoop: Collagen is a natural protein that provides structural support. An injectable form can be used to minimize visible signs of aging by hiding the superficial wrinkles on the face. In addition, collagen can be used to enlarge the lips. Collagen injections incorporate lidocaine in the injection, so no other anesthesia is required. However, if a patient is especially sensitive to pain, a topical anesthetic may be used.

Treatment: Collagen is injected into the lips or skin beneath the affected area.

Effects: When injected into the skin, collagen fills the fine wrinkles, which smooths the overlying skin. In the lips, the Collagen fills the soft tissue of the lips and can even turn the corners upward. The longevity of the treatment depends on the patient's lifestyle, physical characteristics, and area treated. In general, the collagen is likely to disappear faster in areas with more muscle movement. Collagen injections may be repeated every 6 months to touch up or enhance the effects.

Risks: Occasionally, some bruising or swelling will occur, but it is usually minor. Any redness that appears in the injected site usually disappears within 24 hours. However, in some patients, redness may persist for a week or more. In addition to these mild side effects, allergic reaction is a main concern of collagen. To help determine if you are allergic to collagen, your doctor will perform an allergy skin test about a month before the treatment. The test site should be monitored for 3-4 weeks. Any sign of redness, itching, swelling or other problems at the test site should be reported to your doctor. Other risks with collagen include infection, abscesses, sores, peeling, scarring, and lumpiness. However, reports of these problems are rare.

Cost: Collagen injections range from \$350 to \$750 per treatment.

Microdermabrasion

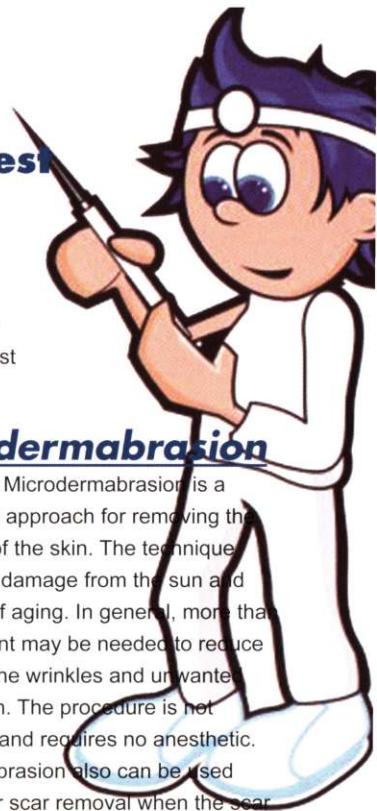
The scoop: Microdermabrasion is a non-surgical approach for removing the outer layer of the skin. The technique helps repair damage from the sun and the effects of aging. In general, more than one treatment may be needed to reduce or remove fine wrinkles and unwanted pigmentation. The procedure is not very painful and requires no anesthetic. Microdermabrasion also can be used medically for scar removal when the scar is raised, but is less effective with sunken scars. In addition, acne can be treated medically with microdermabrasion, but patients who have taken the drug Accutane should not receive microdermabrasion. (Note: Microdermabrasion is different from dermabrasion. "Dermabrasion" refers to a more severe medical procedure conducted with general or twilight anesthesia.)

Treatment: The procedure involves the use of small crystals that are sprayed with a precise amount of force over the surface of the skin. The crystals are then vacuumed off along with the accumulation of dead skin cells. There are also newer tools that use a single, diamond-tipped wand on the skin instead of a stream of crystals. In addition, medical grade devices are available that can only be used by physicians to deliver finer crystals at higher speeds, which may result in more effective results.

Effects: Microdermabrasion results in improvement in the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, sun damage, hyper pigmentation, acne and scars. The procedure may be applied to any part of the body.

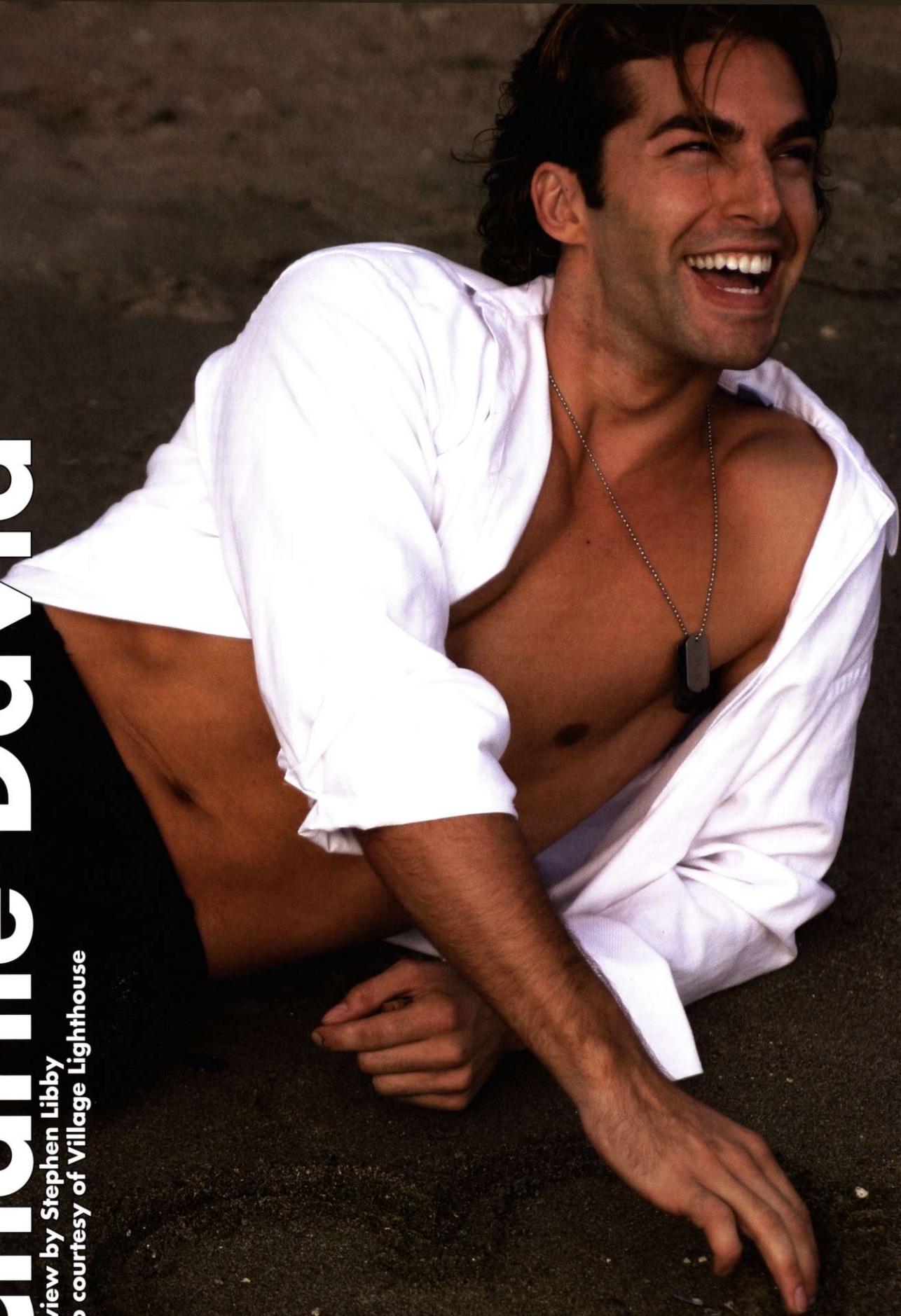
Risks: In the first hour after treatment, there may be mild swelling and redness. Depending on the person, these side effects can last anywhere from an hour to two days.

Cost: Microdermabrasion treatments can range from \$150 to \$300 per treatment, but are usually conducted as a treatment package of 5 or more treatments.



Charlie David

Interview by Stephen Libby
Photo courtesy of Village Lighthouse



Gaydar Magazine: You were just honored with the Rising Star Award at the Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. What does an award like that mean to you and your career?

Charlie David: I was honored when I received the call that I would be receiving the award this year. There are more and more talented actors who are being truthful in their sexuality and to be recognized from among them is very cool.

The Philadelphia Film Society has a wonderful reputation and so it is a milestone for my career. I guess they are recognizing what I've done and where they believe I'm going so I better keep working and playing hard!!

GM: Four Letter Word and Kiss the Bride both played at the PIGLFF. What's it like to sit the audience watching your film with hundreds who are, in essence, judging your performance?

CD: In terms of both those films I hope the audience is entertained. They are fun romantic comedies. It was a goal of mine to work with both directors, Casper Andreas and CJ Cox. Everyone has a different style of working and I learn something from every shoot. Unfortunately I had to leave to go into prep on my next film so I wasn't able to stay and watch the films in Philadelphia. Usually I like to just stand in the back door and listen, I love to hear people laugh.

GM: Dante's Cove is the hottest gay show on television. It appears it would be a scream to work on that set. (pun totally intended) Is it as fun as it looks?

CD: I am really fortunate to work with a crazy, kooky, and spooky group of cast and crew on Dante's Cove. Everyday has an adventure. I definitely consider the cast very close friends, many of us hang out in Los Angeles when we're not shooting. Jon Fleming and his girlfriend and me and my dude hang out quite a bit.

GM: At this point in your career what do people most recognize you from? And what's your strangest fan request?

CD: It really depends where I am... in France and Canada I'm most recognized for either my travel series Bump or another show I hosted called Crash Test Mommy. In the US it's been Dante's Cove and now these films. I really appreciate the support of fans and of course sometimes strange requests come in. Anything from asking for photos of me smoking cigars or of my feet to dates to some marriage proposals. Everyday is interesting,

I definitely don't ever complain of boredom!

GM: Ugly Betty is one of the few successful comedies of late. What's it like to work with America Ferrarra and the great Vanessa Williams?

CD: Well actually I never had the opportunity to work with those two. I worked with Eric Mabius and Salma Hayak as an eager blind date. When I arrived and was in hair and make-up it was just myself and Salma. I did a double take, she is so stunning, I couldn't help but watch her all day. She's so magnetic.

GM: Would it be reasonable to assume that being openly gay has in fact helped your career and propelled you into the American consciousness? Why then do so many actors remain in the closet?

CD: I love that you asked the question that way!! When I was making the choice to come out it was difficult of course but I knew it was my destiny if you will, I couldn't see myself living any other way. I was unwilling to compromise who I am or my career. A big part of that is definitely not accepting 'what is' but projecting what I want 'to be' and everyday moving toward those goals. It's not enough to wait and be asked to get roles, it's imperative to campaign for them and create your own work.

I can't speak on why others remain in the closet, I think we're all on our own journey, this is mine, it has its rewards and challenges just like any other. In the end I guess I like guys too much to pretend in my off screen life as well!!

GM: Your latest project is Mulligans (co-starring Thea Gill from Queer as Folk), described as a gay update of The Graduate. Please, tell us all about it, Mrs Robinson.

CD: Haha!! Well I'm in Victoria in pre-production right now. I am so excited! We have so many wonderful sponsors!! Rufskin Denim, Ajaxx63, Pistol Pete, Otter Fashion, Rochelle Rodriguez, Andrew Christian, Pepsi, Quaker, BMW, Visa, Gatorade, Trojan... the list goes on and on!! We're getting to final casting in the next week and will be going to camera mid-August. We're still seeking some final investors and it's easy to own a piece of the film – as low as \$1000. Anyone interested in getting involved or checking our progress can sign up for our newsletters on my production company's website at: www.border2border.ca
GM: With all these credits in such a short period of time, do you ever sleep?

What do like to do in your down time?

CD: Between these films I'm also shooting my travel series, Bump which takes me around the world to gay/lesbian friendly destinations. It's so much fun. I finished N. American cities last week and once Mulligans wraps I leave for Scandinavia and then Italy, Australia, S. Africa, S. America. I absolutely love to travel. I've created a life where I never work. I get to play all the time, I love acting, writing, producing and creating so I never feel like I'm at work. Border2Border Entertainment Inc. has one TV show shooting in Toronto right now and in the fall we plan on shooting another 2 pilots and will be raising financing for our next feature to shoot summer 2008. When I'm at home it's either Victoria or Los Angeles but the wonderful thing is my office is anywhere with a cell phone and laptop. Off time is always spent with friends and family. I love to do dinners at the house, active trips like skiing, adventuring, and beach time.

GM: And, finally, our readers would kill me if I didn't ask your relationship status. If hitched, how does your boyfriend handle your success? If single, how does one go about applying for the position of your boyfriend?

CD: Haha!! Well I always take applications!! Just send your stats!! Just kidding. I am in a wonderful relationship and trust me – I'm not easy. He's extremely supportive, adaptable, and accommodating to me running around the world and pursuing my dreams. I think it works because he's extremely driven as well and pursuing his own goals. Definitely I think it would not work as well for us if one was just twiddling his thumbs at home waiting for the other.

GM: What message do you have for all the young gay boys out there who want to become an actor but feel they won't be accepted because of their sexual orientation?

CD: Here's the biggest secret weapon I have... be yourself. Not only will you be a more fulfilled person but you will become a better actor. It's when you become vulnerable and honest that you can portray those qualities and a true spectrum of others in your creative work. While living in deceit there will always be parts of ourselves we're holding back from those in our lives and from an audience.

<http://charliedavid.com>

Armistead Maupin

By Stephen Libby
Photo By Harper Collins

I have been a fan of *Tales of the City* since a friend introduced me to the books in the mid eighties. I fell in love with the characters from 28 Barbary Lane and ten years later was glued to the miniseries featuring Olympia Dukakis, Laura Linney and Thomas Gibson. *Tales* started out as a serial in the mid 70's and has won a shelf-load of awards in its various formats in the succeeding decades. Recently, Armistead Maupin took a few minutes to discuss *Tales* latest chapter, *Michael Tolliver Lives* and to answer some of my questions. Enjoy.

Armistead Maupin: This is Armistead Maupin.

Gaydar Magazine: Hi, Armistead Maupin. This is Steve Libby from Gaydar Magazine. How are you?

AM: I'm great, Steve. Where are you located?

GM: We're in Allentown, PA. About an hour west of Philadelphia.

AM: Okay, gotcha.

GM: You're in D.C.?

AM: I am. Did they tell you why? I'm addressing the National Convention of the Public Library Association tonight. The interesting thing about it is that three weeks ago I was told that I'd be

replacing Elizabeth Edwards. My thought was, oh dear, she must be sick. I went online a couple of days ago and found out that she was going to be in San Francisco this weekend addressing Gay Pride.

GM: I saw that.

AM: She came out in favor of gay marriage. I just think it's so funny. The queer writer from San Francisco went to Washington to talk to the librarians so the presidential candidate's wife can go to San Francisco to speak to at Pride.

GM: I love that!

AM: That's progress.

GM: I'm 43. I've read the books and seen the miniseries and thank you for writing them.

AM: Thank you for telling me that.

GM: Without giving away too much, what's in store for Michael Tolliver in the new book?

AM: That's not the sort of thing the author talks about when you interview the author. That should be something you know.

GM: Well, no one has sent me a book yet.

AM: Oh! Well, that's the problem.

GM: That's why I don't know any of this yet.

AM: I can see how if you haven't seen the book that it would be difficult to...I'll throw some stuff at you.

GM: Great.

AM: I chose to write this novel in the first person instead of the third person because I wanted to get a chance to tell his story on his own and I felt the first person would be a far more intimate format. That's the reason...people always say 'why do you keep saying this isn't a sequel to *Tales of the City*', because it is in fact it is a continuation of the story. It's catching up with these people after eighteen years. The reason I do that is because I don't want them to be disappointed. I want them to understand the format changes with this novel. But most people who have read it say 'I felt like I was right back in that world. It doesn't matter if it's in first person or not.' The novel explores themes of an aging, about inter-generational gay relationships because Michael has one. He has

a partner who's 21 years younger than he is. That's an element that is straight out of my own life. My partner, Christopher Turner, is 28 years younger than I am.

GM: My partner is also 19 years younger than I am.

AM: Oh, really? I'm sure you've both suffered from the usual prejudice...largely from gay people. Christopher says that since he was a teenager he's been attracted to older guys and he's always had to apologize for it. There's the automatic assumption that there's some sort of "sugar daddy" action involved. People don't imagine that it could actually be physical attraction. So, that's one of the things I try to illuminate in *Michael Tolliver Lives*.

GM: I feel that sometimes. I feel judged that I'm with a younger man. They don't seem to understand that there is an emotional connection there.

AM: No, they don't. I had a wonderful model for it. Christopher Isherwood and his partner Don Bacardi. I met them back in the 70's and Chris was 75 and Don was 45. They were the most successful couple I'd ever met. Their ability to be loving companions. Don is 73 today and he is still one of my dear friends. There is great comfort in knowing this is not an isolated situation.

GM: It's satisfying to see that others have made it work.

AM: Besides, we're queer. That means we broke all the rules to begin with. And we don't need to be tyrannized by queer culture.

GM: And, quite honestly, wherever you find love...as long as no one is getting hurt...

AM: Isn't that the message of gay liberation?

GM: That's what I thought.

AM: It's surprising how narrow people can be once they're settled into their own little subset of gay life, whatever it might be.

GM: Let's change the topic to serving in Vietnam. What was it like to be gay in the armed forces at that time?

AM: Sure. My sexuality was so deeply buried there wasn't a whole lot of conflict. I do have memories of other guys in the service dropping some serious hints but, I was too dumb to pick them up. Or, too scared.

GM: Was it as much of an issue then as now?

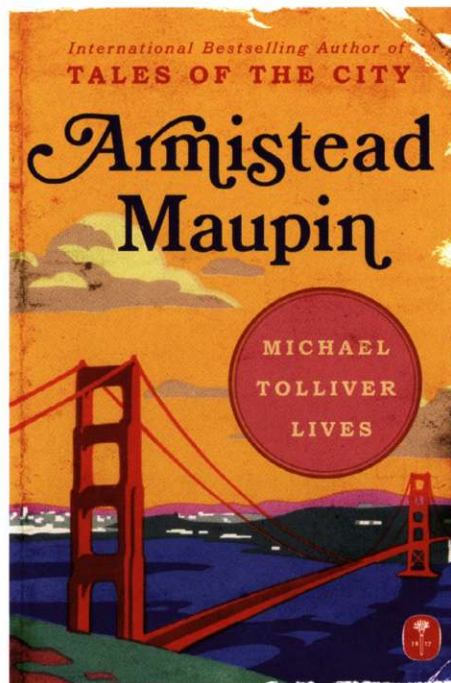
AM: Not nearly. But, because people just assumed that queers weren't around. There were a number of us serving. Not that I knew them. Obviously we've always been in the military. But it was far less of an issue because gay life in general wasn't as visible. Or, as hotly debated.

GM: It was shortly after your time in the service that you started writing *Tales From the City*.

AM: About six years after that.

GM: I read in your bio that you came out in 1974, just one year after homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) as a psychiatric disorder. How did that feel?

AM: It was tremendously exhilarating. I came out, believe it or not, in a feature in *San Francisco Magazine* called *The 10 Sexiest Men in Town*. (laughs) It was kind of the 70's version of the 10 most eligible bachelors. I was asked if I would do it. And, I said I would, if they said I was gay. I was hoping to



get a little action out of it. (both laugh) Only the really perverted bothered to contact me. (more laughter)

GM: Good for you for having the balls back then to demand that.

AM: Well, I was beginning to figure out that being yourself gets you noticed. And there's nothing more attractive than somebody who knows who he is. You'd be surprised how many closet cases don't know that. The public closet cases today...that are widely known. I can't imagine that they don't feel the corrosion of their own lives. The laws of respect...from people both gay and straight who know they are gay and realize they are ashamed of it.

GM: You don't want to drop any names, do you?

AM: Uh, no. Sometime if I'm feeling particularly frisky, but not right now.

GM: I'll call you back later...

AM: (laughs) okay...

GM: Getting back to *Michael Tolliver Lives*. Are there any plans to adapt it for the screen?

AM: No, not so far. If someone thought it was worthy... It's a far more...it's personal and domestic and...there's not a whole lot going on...just life and death and sex...and (laughs) the usual complications. It's not a plot-heavy story.

GM: Love and death and sex...

AM: More of all of those things, actually...

GM: I can't wait to read it. I'm hoping there's a copy en route.

AM: Call them back and demand it.

GM: I will. Thanks. Who were and are your inspirations as a writer?

AM: The aforementioned Christopher Isherwood. His *Berlin Stories* were made into *Cabaret*. He really showed me what was possible...both as a writer and as a man. He was comfortably out and he was someone who spoke with a very clear voice about the gay experience. Especially in the 70's, because he himself didn't come out until 1972. Anyone who read the *Berlin Stories* could read between the lines and figure out the narrator was a gay man. So, he was the big deal for me.

GM: Do you want to talk about your life with Christopher Turner?

AM: It's a very happy one.

GM: What's a typical day like when you're not promoting or speaking somewhere?

AM: He runs a website called daddyhunt.com, so he's in his studio most of the day. We're on the phone to each other two to three times a day. We're domestic creatures at night. We both love cooking on the grill and hanging out watching the plasma TV.

GM: What do you enjoy watching?

AM: Embarrassingly enough, we really got into *American Idol* this year.

GM: Well, you're two of 35 million people...

AM: Yeah, we're not alone...and aside from the times that they mock people, it's rather an uplifting experience to watch those kids chase their dreams and fall in love with each other. It's kind of a peaceful thing to watch in a world full of torture and war.

GM: In this world full of torture and war, I wish you and Christopher many happy years of love and peace. It has been a real pleasure talking with you today. Thank you.

AM: And it has been a pleasure talking with you, Steve. Thank you.

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Vienna:

On the Beautiful Blue Danube

Article and photos by William J. Donlen Jr.





The view of this old imperial city is breathtaking from the Schloss Wilhelminenberg. Relaxing atop a hill in the Vienna Woods, surrounded by vineyards, orchards, a zoological preserve. The palace spoke proudly of an era gone almost 100 years. This vista begged us to sit or stroll the Woods, watch the moon rise over a city that is still a competitor to Paris or St. Petersburg for power, prestige, sheer beauty.

This last capital of the Hapsburg Empire, last remnant of Charlemagne (800 A.D.), provided a focus of wealth, civility, and artistic culture from the 1600's into the mid-twentieth century. If you value history, Vienna, inhabited since Roman times, can satisfy your soul.

Days in the city were spent on foot or clean, safe, efficient, public transit, visiting museums, palaces, churches, and some of the many cafes. The only problem was the temperature, a very unusual 104 several times. (Most of central Europe does not have air-conditioning!) The cafes serve 80 or more varieties of coffee, great Austrian beers and wines, a fair variety of liquor, a good assortment of food. Diet prohibits mentioning the pastries!

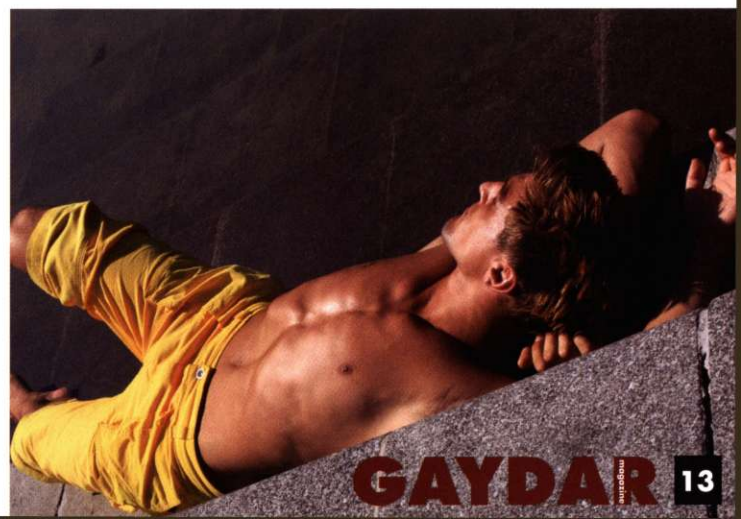
At night, I strolled safely along Ringstrasse or Volksgarten, attended dinner/concerts given by small orchestras playing music of Mozart or the Strauss Family. Every concert but one ended with the rousing "Radetzky" March. The best performance? An unanticipated "Die Fledermaus"-Strauss masterpiece- performed in the private theater of Empress Maria Theresa in the summer palace-Schoenbrunn. I met people from several Countries and a wide age range from 10 to folks in their 80's, including a handsome, young gay couple with whom I shared conversation at intermission.

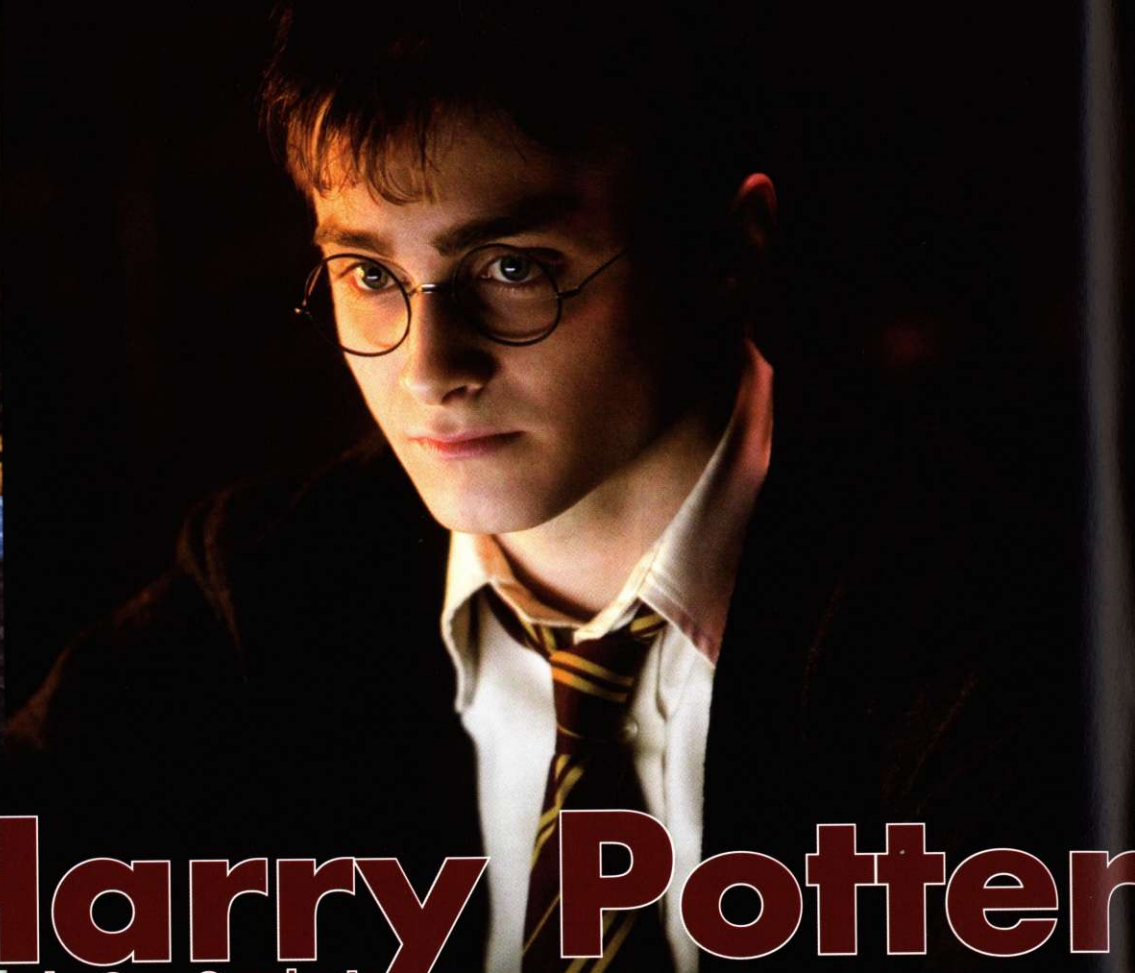
On Sunday, I travelled up the Danube River through the Wachau Valley, an idyllic float past meticulously kept villages, with rows of wine grapes, another Roman gift, garlanding the hills above them. Austrians have made wine making into an art whose palette is the tongue! The goal was the World Heritage Site-Benedictine Monastery at Melck, restored to its Baroque splendor, guarding that stretch of the Danube. We were not disappointed.

My second week started with a fast, clean, smooth train ride from Vienna to Salzburg, at the foot of the Alps. My Hotel, "Altstadt Kasererbraeu", built in 1382, restored in 1984, provided an awesome view of the HOHENSALZBURG. This castle, begun in 1077 to protect Salzburg from southern invaders, is a Medieval/Baroque fortress and very impressive.

At Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, I avoided "The Sound Of Music" tour and opted to hike the Alps near Berchtesgaden, Bavaria. The temperature was in the 90's when I arrived at KoenigSee-a lake in the Alps. I took the trail to the left, hiked over several hills to the mountain base opposite a Bavarian village, took off my clothes, and swam in the crystal clear water for more than an hour! At Werfen, Austria, we hiked up to an ice cave on Grossglockern and were charmed by a sweet young Austrian Man, Rupert, our guide through the Cave.

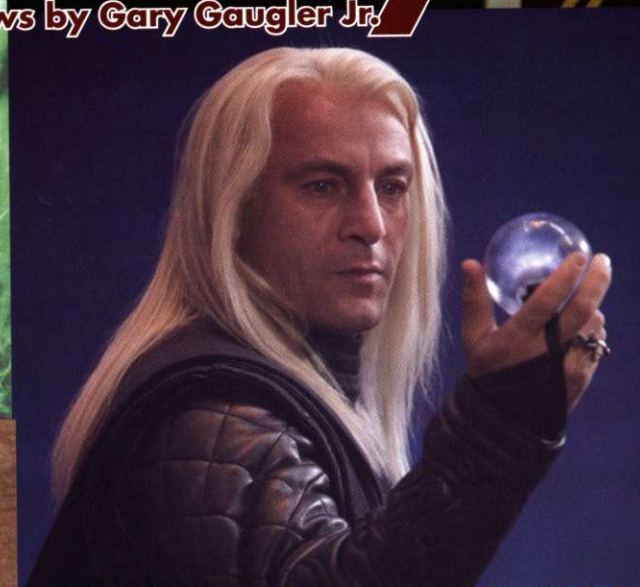
I relaxed much more here: took hours at the Cafe Mozart, did some long-stalled writing, delighted in the handsome people who seemed to be everywhere. I was captivated by their number and variety: younger, older, tall, slim, handsome. Sometimes they took my breath away!





Harry Potter

Reviews by Gary Gaugler Jr.



The Books

Sorcerer's Stone: Harry Potter is accepted into Hogwarts School of Magic and must immediately face the fact that someone at the school is trying to kill him. What's more is that this Dark Wizard is after the Sorcerer's Stone, the source of eternal life. Overall it's a great beginning with a twist of an ending. You'd never suspect the villain. **Grade: E**

Chamber of Secrets: Someone in Hogwarts has opened the mysterious Chamber of Secrets and unleashed an evil monster inside. To make matters worse, the monster kills wizards who come from non-magical families and Harry's friends are in danger. All the same magical mystery as its predecessor, but with a fairly predictable ending. **Grade: A**

Prisoner of Azkaban: Things are darker and more unpredictable than ever when Harry learns that his parents are dead because of one Sirius Black, who has now escaped from the wizard prison, Azkaban. The ending is completely unforeseeable and the book introduces two new teachers for Harry who are both deliciously written. **Grade: O**

Goblet of Fire: Harry finds himself involved in a Wizarding Tournament of Champions that he didn't submit his name for and more and more of Voldemort's followers are coming out into the open. By the time Harry realizes who's behind all this evil, it's too late and Voldemort has risen from the ashes. The first of Rowling's extra lengthy books, this proved to be anything but tedious. **Grade: O**

Order of the Phoenix: The Ministry of Magic refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned. Meanwhile the Dark Lord releases more of his cronies from Azkaban prison and it's up to the Order of the Phoenix to stop them. The real villain here, however, is the absurdly evil, Ministry appointed Dolores Umbridge, who terrorizes Harry and the school at large with her brutal tactics hidden behind a smile and pink bows. Longest book and it felt like it. The main plot was enjoyable but many tangents that were taken had no relevance at all. **Grade: D**

Half-Blood Prince: Harry and his mentor, Professor Dumbledore try to discover Voldemort's weakness by delving into his mysterious past. All the while Harry receives help(?) from the mysterious Half-Blood Prince who may be causing more harm than good. In a jaw-dropping finale Dumbledore is killed by the vile Professor Snape who reveals himself to be the Prince. Multiple flashbacks don't hurt this book at all. Easily the most revealing look into all of the characters and their secrets. **Grade: O**

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

Ten years after the start of a magical, literary phenomenon, J.K. Rowling's epic ends on lucky number seven, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. The bookstores were packed and millions of copies were sold in the best selling opening weekend for a book ever. Now two months later the dust has settled, the internet spoilers have been snuffed, the reviews have been written, and the ten year question has been answered.

Harry Potter lives! From chapter one of book one we learned that the entire wizarding community declared Harry as the boy who lived after being the only person to survive the killing curse by the Dark Wizard Voldemort. From that moment we knew that the series would end with a last epic battle between the pinnacles of good and evil, but with so much emphasis placed on Harry surviving as a baby everyone doubted whether he would survive in the climactic battle.

The book centers around Harry Potter and his friends, brainy Hermione and bumbling Ron, as they search for Horcruxes, relics that contain fragments of the Dark Lord's shattered soul. Once these items have all been destroyed, Voldemort will cease to be invincible and will become mortal enough for Harry to fight and destroy.

In the midst of all the mayhem, Harry and his friends learn about the Deathly Hallows, magical instruments that can bring everlasting life but even more possible, unexpected deaths. In the end Harry stands victorious, Voldemort lies dead, and a certain traitor of good is revealed to have been on Harry's side since before his birth. And as the book so eloquently ends, "All was well."

Aside from the flash forward epilogue, Deathly Hallows is Rowling's at her best. One would almost expect that after all the fame and millions upon millions of dollars earned, she may have been callous and sloppy with her conclusion. However, every question that fans have pondered were answered in subtle storytelling with mysteries that kept you guessing till the last chapter.

Even in a magical world, nothing is perfect and it did seem like entire chapters were spent with our heroes wandering through the woods, hiding from the bad guys and squabbling with each other. Then of course there's the way J.K. decided to wrap up the series by pairing up all the main characters in marriage, having all of their children be school chums, and end with those so unrealistic words, "All was well."

Flaws? Yes, every book has them, but flaws aside this pure magical fiction at its best. And even those who feel too old or mature for magic have to fall in love with Rowling's 3-dimensional, complex characters and the quandaries they have to solve to survive.

Yes fans, Deathly Hallows contains all the magic and mystery that we've come to love from Rowling's past books. But, of course it comes with the bittersweet taste of finality. All the questions we've been wondering about for ten years have been answered as Harry Potter's adventure finally comes to an end. And all was well.

Grade: E

The Films

Sorcerer's Stone:

Everything we loved about the first book to a tee. The director visualized all of the characters and magic beautifully. The movie featured a stellar cast that excelled in their roles and made us believe they were our favorite characters.

Grade: O

Chamber of Secrets:

Still not as good as the original, yet better than the book. The amazing detail to new characters, monsters, and the Chamber itself far exceeded the miniscule amount of detail Rowling used in her book.

Grade: E

Prisoner of Azkaban:

The movie comes across even darker than it was in the book which is a definite plus. However, as each book gets longer, more scenes need to be trimmed for the movie and some important details were completely left out.

Grade: A

Goblet of Fire: All the

darkness and amazing special effects that we're used to in an even more desperate attempt for Harry to stay alive. Once again important parts were chopped or simply re-written to keep the movie within a reasonable amount of time. **Grade: E**

Order of the Phoenix:

Finally trimming the fat for a movie version pays off. All of the great things about the book but without the senseless diversions into boring subplots.

Imelda Staunton's take on Dolores Umbridge is irresistible and Oscar-worthy. Best movie to date. **Grade: O**

****ORDINARY WIZARDING LEVEL GRADES**

PASS GRADES: O - OUSTANDING, E - EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS, A - ACCEPTABLE

FAIL GRADES: P - POOR, D - DREADFUL, T - TROLL

Hilary Duff

Photo & Interview courtesy of FlyLife Inc.

Concert Review Dignity Tour Allentown Fairgrounds by Andy Lynch

I'll admit it: I'm pushing 30 and I am a huge Hilary Duff fan. It all started innocently enough. My 7 year old sister had a copy of Hilary's 1st album "Metamorphosis" and I needed something to listen to on the beach. Fast forward 4 years and two albums later and there I sat, impatiently waiting for Hilary to take the stage at the Allentown Fairgrounds as part of her "Dignity World Tour".

Hilary Duff is a mini-mogul of sorts with her own line of accessories, three albums, countless movies (most aimed at the pre-teen set), and even a new perfume. Her music has a broad appeal and with her wholesome image, there really isn't anything NOT to like. There was just one more question that I needed answered Friday night before I pledged my complete allegiance to one of my favorite celebrities: Can Hilary actually sing? Studio wizardry aside, does she actually have a voice?

She does. From the opening number "Play With Fire" to the last glorious seconds of her closing song "Stranger", Hilary commanded the attention of her audience with more than competent vocals and sexy, but age-appropriate hip-hop inspired choreography. Hilary's costumes were fabulous, featuring one sequined mini that hugged DANGEROUS curves and she even took the time in between songs to offer inspiration, many times explaining the meaning and the emotions she has tried to convey in some of her most popular songs.

You didn't have to be a Hilary Duff fan on Friday night to appreciate the work ethic, professionalism, and personality of one of Hollywood's youngest and brightest stars. Hilary came to Allentown to put on a show and she did only the way she can... with love.



For all intents and purposes, she's the good girl. No rehab. No 10-second marriages. No DUI's. No jail time. Just some decent entertainment sprinkled with enough attitude and gay friends to keep her on our gaydar. She recently kicked off her US tour and her agent sent us this interview and update.

The tour embarks following an enormously successful year for Hilary, including the launch of her perfume *With Love*, the highest debut album of the week also named *With Love*, critical acclaim, several high profile TV appearances including her own show on MTV, several # 1s with her single "With Love" including # 1 on TRL, # 1 most added at Top 40 radio, # 1 song on Billboard's Dance Chart, and Hilary winning favorite international artist this past weekend on The Much Music Awards. Yet, among Hilary's hectic schedule, she made time to give back. Just last week, Hilary was at Normandie Elementary School stuffing backpacks with food she purchased for the charity "Blessings in a Back Pack." -SL

It was great seeing you present at the GLAAD Media Awards in New York.

Hilary Duff: It was so much fun! I'd never been before and everyone was so nice to me. I was really surprised but really excited that they wanted me to be a part of it. And it's fun to get dressed up and go do things that you believe in and that you want people to know about.

Who's your favorite gay celebrity?

I love Carson Kressley. I've actually worked with him before on *The Perfect Man*. He's so funny because I was standing there

taking a picture with the president of GLAAD and Carson was like, "I don't want to interrupt, but I have to come in!" So he jumped in and gave me a big hug. He has the best energy and he's so sweet.

Tell me about your performance at G-A-Y in London.

It was incredible. I actually was so shocked that they asked me to perform there just because so many really talented people perform there. It's quite an honor. The whole place was packed and they all knew all my songs.

Was that your first time in a gay club?

I'd been to The Abbey once before to dance with my one of my best guy friends in L.A. He's gay and his name is Drew.

What do you and Drew do together?

He comes over and we cook. Oh, and we love watching *Flavor Flav* together! He loves *I Love New York*, so we did a ghetto night at my house and he brought Cheez Whiz. He loves to have theme parties and wants to have a hoedown barbecue at my house this summer. Once we did an '80s prom night with a DJ and all of our friends.

When did you realize you had a big gay following?

A lot of full-grown men would come up to me that loved Lizzie McGuire, but it wasn't up until this year that I found out that they really liked my music and that my music was playing in some gay clubs. Once I was at Barney's and there was this hardcore kid about 22 or 23. He looked pretty intense with the tight black pants, creepers and tattoos, and when he came up to me I was like, Oh my God, I'm about to get beat up. But he was like, "I'm gay and I'm obsessed

with you and I want to see your concert, so you better hurry up and go on tour! When can I buy 'Play With Fire'? I love you so much!" I was just so flattered.

So many songs on *Dignity* deal with imperfect relationships and breakups. How much of the album was inspired by your two-and-a-half relationship with Joel Madden?

A lot of it, definitely. That was the one big relationship that I had been in. Making the record half of the time being with him and then while going through the breakup, I got to cover a lot of emotions. Obviously people like to talk more about the negative, but there are songs about how great our relationship was, too.

The track "Dignity," which criticizes paparazzi princesses, certainly isn't going to help fix any feuds!

I don't think so either, but this record was about being open and being myself. The song "Dignity"—that's how I feel. It's blunt, it's honest and I think a lot of people agree with it no matter how much they might love to talk about those people. It interests me, too. I see them in magazines and I'm like, "Oh, what's so-and-so doing now?" But it's kind of ridiculous and I don't care if people know that I say that because it's the truth. She is definitely in that group, but I'm not specifically talking about her.

Gossip bloggers such as Perez Hilton suggest that you've been out partying harder since your breakup. Should we be concerned?

Oh my gosh, I've been going out for a long time. Just now because other people are going into rehab they start to notice that I'm going out. I like to go out and have fun with my girlfriends, but I don't like to make a big deal out of it. I don't like to go in the front door and I don't like to walk out stumbling and crazy. When you do that kind of thing you know what kind of attention you're going to get. But I don't think there's any cause for concern.

How are you like your new fragrance, *With Love*?

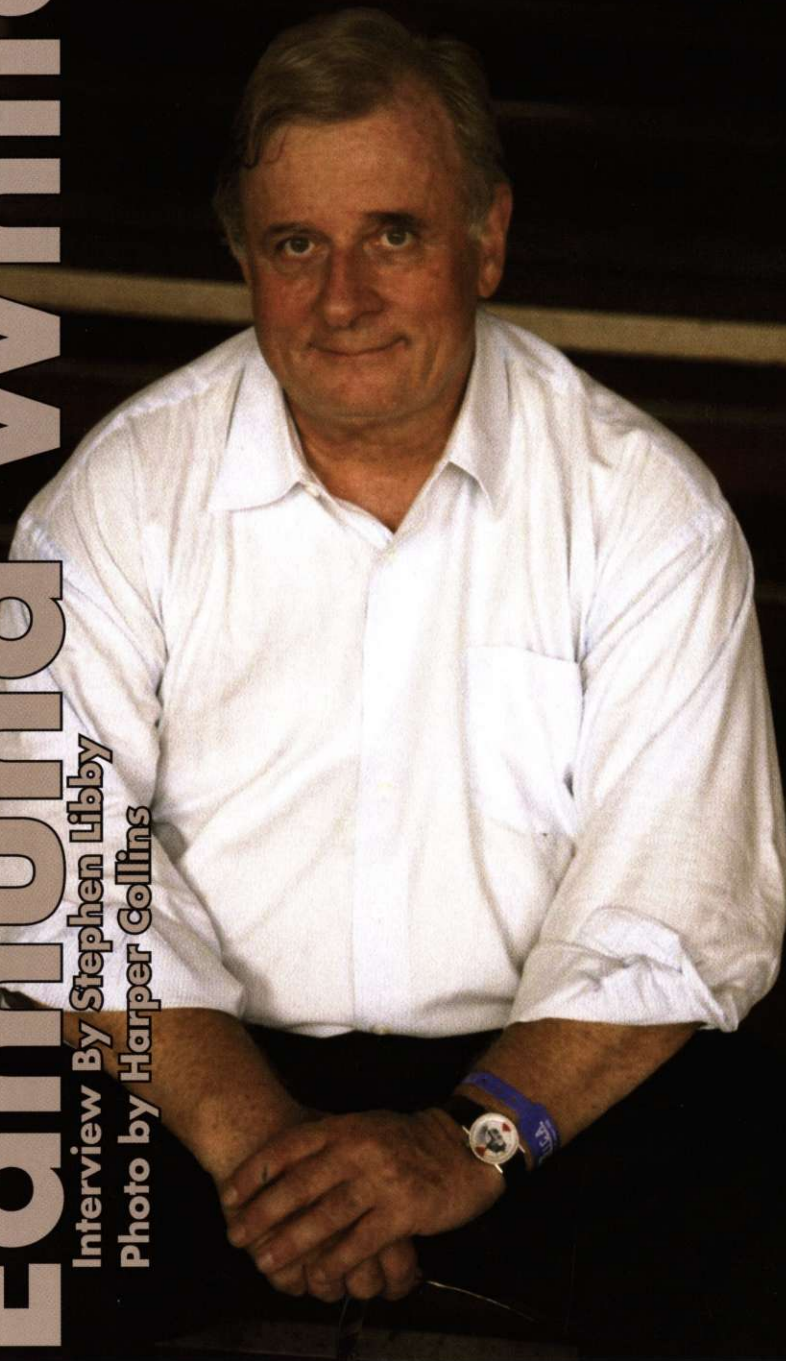
The scent is very diverse. It's sweet but also woodsy and dark, and that's a different part of my personality that people don't always see. The top note is the sweetest, but then the dry down, the one that you're left with the longest, is warmer and more exotic.

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Edmund White

Interview By Stephen Libby
Photo by Harper Collins



He is the versatile writer of such groundbreaking novels as *A Boy's Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*, *The Farewell Symphony* and *A Married Man*. He has also written a biography of **Jean Genet**, a study of **Marcel Proust** and his own memoir, *My Lives*. The occasion for my speaking with Mr. White today is to celebrate his work and discuss the release of his latest novel, *Hotel de Dream*, in which he reinvents the final days of literary giant **Stephen Crane** and explores the seedy underbelly of turn-of-the-century New York.

Gaydar Magazine: Your books helped make gay normal for me. I'd love to know who your influences were when you started writing.

Edmund White: I wanted to be a writer when I was very young...14. I think it was partly because I was trying to cope with the guilt and the pressure of being gay and just feeling tormented about that. And you can imagine in the mid-west in the 1950's, that wasn't very easy. There weren't very many literary models. There weren't any *Boy's Own Stories*. There were the *Journals of Andre*

Gide. There was the life of the ballet dancer **Nijinsky**, by his wife. There were about half a dozen books you could grab onto. Most of them I didn't even know about because I was sitting in a boarding school in Michigan. It wasn't like people were displaying gay books in every book shop. I had a teacher in eighth grade who praised me as a writer, and that was some of the first praise I'd ever received from anybody for anything. That sounded good to my ears, so that encouraged me. I was always interested in the arts. Acting, singing and so on. Writing seemed to be the one I had a little bit of talent at.

GM: Did you sing and act in school productions?

EW: Yeah. I was head of the glee club and acted in *Brigadoon*. I was the villain which was also a dancing role.

GM: I love the idea of dancing villains! Anyway, who has influenced you since you became a writer?

EW: I guess my two big influences are **Nabokov** who wrote *Lolita*. And, the other one maybe being **Isherwood**, who wrote *A Single Man*, which came out in 1960. It was an enormous breakthrough for gay fiction. We became friends in the late 70's. He died around '84 or '85.

GM: What was the need and desire for your group the Violet Quill?

EW: I think writers like to have a group, especially young writers who haven't published yet. They like to get together and read to each other. It plays the same role a creative writing class does. It gives you deadlines and an audience. I don't belong to one any longer but, I know of at least five groups of gay writers today in New York. I have lots of gay writer friends and we read each other's work and comment and encourage each other. And give parties for each other.

GM: Well, the parties are the important part.

EW: That's definitely the most important part. (both laugh)

GM: How long have you been out?

EW: (laughs) Well, I've been sexually active since I was about twelve and I'm 67 now.

GM: And how have you seen the climate for gay people change during that time?

EW: (laughs) Dramatically. In the 50's you could watch television, which was fairly a new medium, for years without ever hearing the word homosexuality mentioned. Or, maybe never mentioned. Not even on talk shows. There was nothing mentioned. It was a black out. In very sophisticated Broadway theatre, there were occasional plays like *Tea and Sympathy* and the *Immoralist* which would talk about homosexuality. But,

in normal Eisenhower America there was no reference to it. A complete black-out of information was very damaging because it allowed a gay person to feel they were the only one. Probably the single biggest change now is that no gay person, even growing up in Mormon Utah, would ever feel he is the only one. All he'd have to do is turn on the TV and watch *Will & Grace*.

GM: Do you hear from people whose lives you've touched with the books that you've written and the themes you discuss?

EW: Over the years it's added up to a few. I do often meet people at parties or people at universities where I'm giving a reading or a professor whose introducing me will often times talk about how my books have played a role in his or her life. The most gratifying thing about being a writer for any minority group is that you feel that, although somebody like John Updike has millions of readers maybe he's not crucial to any one of them, whereas a gay writer has many fewer readers but you feel that you've played an important role in a few of those readers' lives.

GM: Back in 1982 it seemed as if the larger population was on the verge of accepting, if not embracing homosexuality. *Making Love, Personal Best, Victor/Victoria* were playing in rural movie theatres and more gay themed books, theatre and television characters were visible. Then with AIDS came a backlash against everything gay and people went running back into the closet.

EW: I think that's absolutely right. But, then again it also flushed quite a few people out of the closet. It was a mixed bag. I think the first reaction was a lot of gays were worried about gay bashing which would be exacerbated by AIDS and AIDS-phobia. On the other hand, many people who were friendly to gays, like **Elizabeth Taylor**, began to raise money for AIDS fairly quickly, by '84 or '85. There was a big international movement to raise money for AIDS so gays found a lot of friends in the straight community who they might not have found before. The other thing is, a lot of conservative gay people who before '81 had no reason to come out since it served no purpose for them, suddenly, because their lovers were dying, they were sort of flushed out of the closet.

GM: I read in your biography you lost many friends to AIDS.

EW: Oh, God, yeah. I was one of the six founders of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1981. Only three of us are alive. Of the Violet Quill's eight members only three of us are alive. I sometimes think one reason why America is less interesting

artistically today is because all the gays died. All those gay choreographers, all those gay painters, actors, directors, playwrights, film makers, clothes designers. I think there's been a bulgarization and dumbing down of American culture, which might have happened anyway because of mass media and commercialization, but it seems it was hastened by the death of so many clever gays.

GM: It is difficult to imagine what work would have been produced and impossible to fathom what work we've lost. Speaking of film making, correct me if I'm wrong, but have none of your books been made into movies?

EW: Every once in awhile they're optioned but nothing ever happens.

GM: That is unfortunate. I figured with the climate being more tolerant and gay movie channels like Logo, and even HBO and Showtime with *Queer as Folk* and *The L Word* that your books would be a natural fit for someone to translate to the screen.

EW: You'd think so. There's talk of making a movie of *A Married Man*. It would be a French film with English subtitles. But, I don't know...nothing ever seems to quite happen. I had a play done in London in May. That was a success. That may someday get made into a TV show or a movie.

GM: What is your opinion on the criticism that the gay culture is one that is obsessed with youth?

EW: (laughs) I think men are obsessed with youth, whether straight or gay. It's no accident that straight men are always dumping their old wives for a young new girl, if they can afford it. Men, in general, love youth. And why? I guess it must almost be a biological thing, in the sense that straight men want young women who will bare their children. Maybe that same impulse toward youth, even though it's sterile in the case of gay men, is there for the same biological reason.

GM: Let's talk about Hotel de Dream.

EW: It's about **Stephen Crane** who wrote *The Red Badge of Courage*. He died at age 28 of TB. Though he was an American he died in Europe. He was married to an older woman who had a house of prostitution in Jacksonville, Florida called de Dream. He had been brought up by a Methodist minister father and a temperance worker mother in New Jersey. He was fascinated by low life, prostitution, anything a little bit loose. There's a theory that he began to write a gay novel called *Flowers of Asphalt* and that he wrote forty pages of it before a straight friend convinced him to tear it up. This was in the 1890's, the time of the **Oscar Wilde** trial. It

was reasonable to say it would have sunk his career if he actually published it. On the other hand, I think it would have been so exciting if in the 1890's a gay novel about a boy prostitute had been written. I thought it would be fun to try to write that book. My book is really a novel within a novel. The outer novel is about **Stephen Crane** and his wife and their desperate efforts to get to Germany and to a TB clinic where they hope he'll be cured, though he dies upon arrival. The inner novel is the book he's dictating to his wife which is this gay novel that he had destroyed a few years before but which, according to my fantasy, he's desperately trying to recreate on his deathbed because he feels it is the last good thing he did.

GM: Great teaser. If that doesn't beg to be made into a movie...

How did you do your research?

EW: I was lucky because I had a year sabbatical from teaching at Princeton and I had a fellowship to the 42nd St Library here in New York. They give you a small salary and an office and access to over seven million books. While I was working on this book about New York in the 1890's, because of a lot of it takes place in New York, I had all this fantastic information at my fingertips. For instance, **Stephen Crane** and the boy prostitute go for dinner in this hotel called The Everett House which was in Union Square. When I typed in Everett House up flashed all the menus for the entire decade of the 1890's. You don't have to make stuff up; you know exactly what they ate. And there are half a million images of New York online. Every time you want a character to walk up Broadway, you can reel past all the photos from that period to see what everything looked like.

GM: What a great resource. To wrap up the interview, and I'd like to preface this last question by saying I hope you live another 60 years...

EW: (laughs) Thank you...

GM: How would you like to be remembered by future generations?

EW: I like the thought of being a pioneer in gay fiction and I like the idea in trying my hand in many different genres of writing, more than other writers get the opportunity to. I've written fiction, biographies, historical novels, essays, autobiographical novels, plays and so on. I've written about twenty books, so that's pretty productive. I like the idea of being remembered as a versatile and prolific author who thought about the gay identity.

GM: Thank you for the time and energy and talent you have shared with the gay community.

EW: Thank you for interviewing me.

He's a Survivor! A professional volleyballer!! He's out and proud!!! And, dammit!!! He has a boyfriend...

JP Calderon

Interview by Stephen Libby
Photo courtesy of Tango Blues Entertainment

Gaydar Magazine: Criticisms abound that nothing is real in reality TV. How would you address that statement? What was your experience on Survivor?

JP Calderon: Reality TV actually is real situations and conflicts that are created by the persons involved and their usually flammable personalities, locations, weather, outside influences including comments from the producers and other cast members about what's going on. It is a hyper-exaggeration of the 20 hours nothing happens during a day condensed and edited from a few hours of everyone together or interacting.

GM: With the parties, hot guys, drugs etc, what's the most rewarding part of being a model?

JP: I can write off all my hair and skin care products! I have only been modeling for a year and have signed with Ford so it's pretty cool. I get to travel and meet some amazingly talented photographers.

GM: When all the cameras are flashing and people are calling out your name, what helps keep you grounded?

JP: Knowing that I get to go back to coaching volleyball and being with my friends out of the limelight. It's fun going to events and meeting such talented people on the way, but when it comes down to it all that matters is who I am and how I treat people that's most important. It can be a bit strange walking through an airport and having a TSA employee stop you to take a photo on his camera phone in the security checkpoint line!

GM: What superhero would you like to wake up next to, and why?

JP: It's who I wake up next to that's my superhero... I don't need a fictitious one.

GM: It doesn't appear that you have much down-time. What do you do to relax?

JP: Spend time with friends, volleyball, good dinners, whenever I get the chance but it is hard to find time. I just spent the last month traveling for appearances in Orlando for One Mighty Weekend which was my first "circuit event" and was amazing, then off to Kansas City Pride, Long Beach Pride, and New Your City to Splash. I just returned from my favorite place... WETbar in Atlanta. I was there back in May and they asked me to host the whole Pride weekend for them. I started Thursday as an MC for an Andrew Christian fashion show, Friday was there for Deborah Cox and DJ Kio Kio, then on Saturday made an appearance at Gravity Fitness Gym and went on to introduce Debby Holiday and Kristine W. to the stage! Phil B turned it out and we went home early as Sunday they had me on my first Pride float! Sunday night we had a great dinner at 2 Urban with Disco queen Shannon and some friends before she performed with DJ Michael Feirman and had me on stage with her passing out roses to the crowd! Now I have to run off to the Junior Olympics and then Score on South Beach for their anniversary party.

GM: What's next for you, JP?

JP: It's a secret. You'll see this fall.

GM: I can keep secrets. Hey, JP...I can keep secrets! Really, I can!

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Aaron Savvy

Interview by Stephen Libby

Photos by Tango Blues Entertainment



Gaydar Magazine: What was the response when you came out to your Mormon family?

Aaron Savvy: Amazingly when I came out to my family, they still love and support me. Coming from a Mormon faith, I'll take it. Although, they disagree with my life-style, they still consider me apart of the family. For me that's all I've ever wanted.

GM: Describe your experience on TOUGHMAN? Did anyone know you were gay then?

AS: When I did FX'S Original Toughman, I had not yet come out. My experience doing Toughman was an adrenaline high for me. I could never bungee cord jump or sky dive, but I'll sign a waiver form on my life to fight in a ring. I figured I had more of a chance of survival in a ring than falling thousands of feet to my death. The sport was a way of challenging myself in all areas: Mental, physical and even spiritually. When you're battling in a match of three one minute rounds of all hail Mary's to the face, and then coming back minutes later to repeat this 3-4 more times... Yeah, you've earned the title of being a toughman!

GM: There is a lot on your resume. What have you enjoyed the most and what would you choose for a life long profession?

AS: My two favorite jobs I have encountered would be DJ for a radio station and being a personal trainer. My Life long profession would be either having my own radio talk show or television show. With that great calling I would be a life coach helping people achieve their fitness and nutritional goals.

GM: Who are some male models you think are hotter than you? What turns you on?

AS: I come across guys in magazines all the time that I admire. They have great physiques and they're hot! What turns me on? A guy who takes care of himself and most importantly: who's not all into himself (humble).

GM: What does your workout routine consist of? What junk food to you find difficult to resist?

AS: My personal workout consists of three hours six days a week. I train like a Lance Armstrong, with little rest and high repetitions. With that time spent, I really have to be careful on not over training



myself. For example: Monday I would do 4-5 chest exercises, 3-4 triceps, 3-4 abdominal, 20 minutes of cardio then ending with a 5 minute stretch. My philosophy is "Use, Don't Abuse". With that, I treat myself to all sorts of treats. I never feel bad when I eat doughnuts, pizza or candy. Moderation is the key. People just have a tendency to over-treat themselves.

GM: Are you involved with anyone right now? If so, how does he deal with your profession? If not, wanna get hooked up? Where can people send their pix and video clips?

AS: I want to meet everyone and anyone. You can go to my myspace at myspace.com/SCAjayLA or visit my website at www.aaronsavvyfitness.com where I develop and customize your own fitness and nutritional plan. I also follow up with a phone constellation. Even with my status, I want to be out on the front line helping those who need that added push.

GM: Do you have any advice

for young gay men with athletic or modeling aspirations?

AS: My advice for young gay men is to always be you. DO NOT CHANGE BECAUSE SOCIETY SAYS DIFFERENTLY. Whatever your dreams or aspirations may be...go for it. Do not let anyone tell you differently. I had friends and even my family members tell me I was wasting my time with my modeling endeavors. Whatever choices you make and decide on, except them and never look back.

GM: What's next for Aaron?

AS: What's next for Aaron? I have a lot in the works. Nothing finalized, but if it goes through, you will all know and hear about it. In the meantime I am training at GOLDS GYM in Hollywood CA and am launching my website www.aaronsavvyfitness.com I am also appearing in Exercise for Men Only magazine in August issue. Check out my spread on abdominal exercises. For continuous updates, check out my myspace at myspace.com/SCAjayLA



Margaret Cho

Interview by Stephen Libby
Photo courtesy of KP Group

Margaret Cho has been an outspoken activist for gay and lesbian issues since before there were Bushies. She is a humanitarian, a live wire, an award winning entertainer extraordinaire, a self proclaimed queer, an honorary gay man, and a mama's girl. During this 10:30 am interview all of those labels disappear and she is a soft spoken, polite and opinionated person whose passion can be heard even without the audience and footlights. We are here to pick her brain and discuss her new show, *Sensuous Woman*.

Gaydar Magazine: Hey, Margaret.

Margaret Cho: Hello.

GM: *Sensuous Woman* is advertised as a celebration of women's bodies through comedy, dance, music... What led to its creation and what can we as an audience expect to experience?

MC: I started doing this show as a charity event and it became wildly popular and it just seemed like this great opportunity to create something new and be around these really interesting people. It was fun and funny and I loved doing it. I think people should expect unexpected things. Wild and crazy things. Crazy songs and wild acting. It should be really exciting.

GM: We have come to expect wild and crazy things from you.

MC: I hope so.

GM: In the couple of years since we last spoke you've produced the stage show *Assassins*, written the book *I Have Chosen to Stay and Fight*, and starred in the film *Bam Bam & Celeste*. More people are seeing the current administration for what they really are, what you've been saying all along. What are your thoughts a year before the next presidential election?

MC: Now it's just about making sure we get a democrat in the White House. Which is hard because there are so many people running for president. It's like a reality show; *America's Next Top President*. The elimination process is very weird. Hopefully we'll see some improvement. I think things have gotten better. Because

people are more united against Bush and more frustrated with the way things are. I think things are slowly improving.

GM: Do you have a favorite at this point?

MC: I like Barak Obama.

GM: Can we get Hilary on the same ticket?

MC: That would be ideal.

GM: Of all the awards and accolades you've received, what do you consider your most important work?

MC: I think it's just that I am able to keep doing it. To keep working and to keep growing. That I have longevity and there's still more to do. And that I'm able to be more creative and keep growing and expand into different areas and have fun. That I think is the greatest achievement.

GM: You are a leader. I think once you've said something people feel it's okay for them to say it. I think it's amazing that you are able, and willing, to put yourself out there.

MC: I believe in a lot of things that are very basic. I think equal rights is really important and something that we've all been deprived of in the gay community. It's really appalling how we've been treated and we don't have gay marriage.

GM: Do you think the status of gay marriage will change with a democratic president?

MC: I'd like to see it change.

Although there are people who don't condone it like John Edwards. It's sickening to have candidates want to lead this country but don't believe all its citizens are created equal. If you don't condone gay marriage it means you don't think gay people are equal. And that is wrong. Those candidates should be eliminated right away.

GM: The Bush administration has provided you and other comedians with such great material, will you hate to see them go?

MC: They'll be a lot of funny stuff. It's funny anyway. It's all funny.

GM: Especially if another Clinton is elected in.

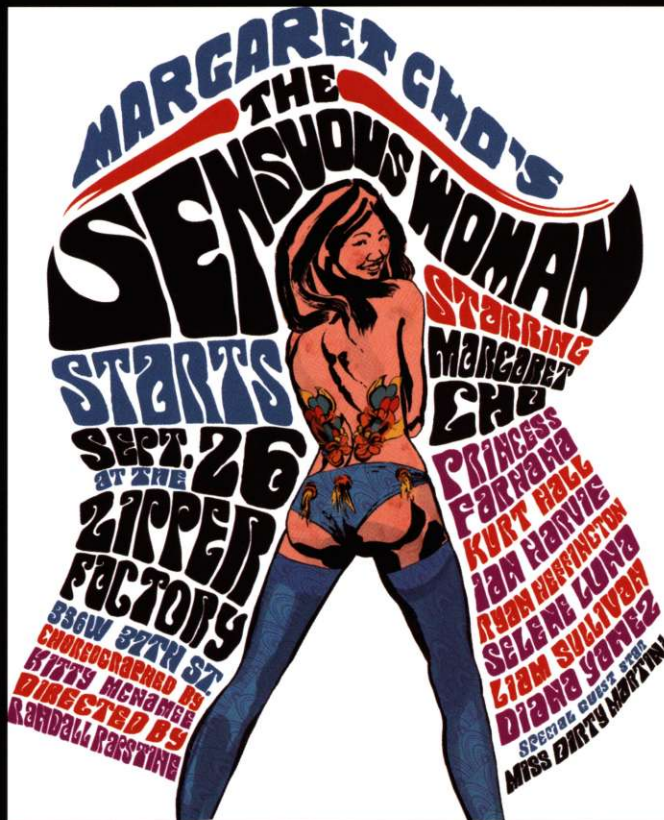
MC: That would be cute. Hilary would be great... because she's already been president for eight years. She'd know what she's doing.

GM: (laughs) Can you share some of your memories of the True Colors Tour that you co-headlined with Cyndi Lauper this summer?

MC: It was awesome. It was so much fun. So thrilling to work with Cyndi Lauper.

She is such an amazing talent and great person. I was just running around, drinking, being really wild. It was like Girls Gone Wild with me, Cyndi, Rosie O'Donnell and Deborah Harry and Andy Bell from Erasure. I loved it. I have never had so much on tour before. I'm usually on tour by myself so...it was very different to be on tour with all these great people who I admire so much. It was really spectacular. I think there's talk of another one for 2008.

GM: There is criticism that the origin of the Pride Festivals, the Stonewall Riots, and the activism of the 70's and 80's have been forgotten by the younger generation and replaced with using the events as reason to hook up and get drunk. Your thoughts?



MC: I find that the young people I'm around are very political and very progressive. They've added Q and I and other letters to the GLBT and they seem to be very welcoming to the transgender community. Gay Pride is a celebration and hooking up is part of it, too.

GM: How much do they know about the gay rights movement? The Mattachine Society? The Stonewall Riots? Harvey Milk? Matthew Shepherd? That AIDS didn't start with gay men? I think you should be able to pass the Gay Quiz before you can get drunk or make out at a Pride Festival

MC: You're right. It's important and that history is vital. Because it's not as acceptable, they don't really teach it in school. You can take it at a university level, but you have to be taking gay studies. We do need to get that history out there because it builds pride.

GM: Enough of my agenda, let's get back to Sensuous Woman. You've said you struggled with your body weight and image for years.

MC: I've had weight issues my whole life. I was a pretty fat kid and pretty fat teenager. When you grow up feeling like you're not right in your body, you don't feel good in your body. It's a very demoralizing thing and you feel invisible. And to be queer on top of that is to be doubly invisible. It's hard

to break out of that invisibility and to feel good about yourself. I've managed to feel really great about where I am and who I've become and who I've grown up to be. And let go of the fear and hatred of my own body. I want to share that feeling with people and bring that feeling to them. I think that's really powerful.

GM: People admire you for taking on all these issues. What's going on in your personal life?

MC: I have a very great marriage. It's a good foundation for me. That's why I'm such an advocate for gay marriage. I think we need each other and it's a great thing. It provides stability and offers a future. Some of my friends work with me.

GM: So what's the deal with women? Have you ever had a relationship with a woman?

MC: Oh, Yes! I'm definitely queer. That to me is really important, too. It's just that this is where I am right now.

GM: So you consider

yourself bisexual?

MC: More queer. Bisexual doesn't really cover it, because I'm really into transsexuals and transgendered people. And that doesn't fit with bi. That's only Q. I'm much more comfortable with people who are tran.

GM: Cool! Okay, so what's after Sensuous Woman?

MC: After this I'll be working on my on stand-up comedy show to film. That will be my next movie and my next tour. Hopefully I'll go on tour with the True Colors Show after that.

GM: We wish you much success with all of it. Always a pleasure to talk with you.

www.margaretcho.com

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wa

For more than half a century following the end of Prohibition, Americans traditionally equated beer with the hazy, crazy, lazy days of summer. But then, the character "lite" products of the forty breweries that survived the drought – and keep in mind that more than 4,000 local producers flourished prior to 1920 – were best consumed at frigid, taste-numbing temperatures.

Bottoms Up

Beer-ing up for Autumn

BY LENORA DANNELKE

PHOTO BY STEPHEN LIBBY

ts us to be happy." –Benjamin Franklin

Although the thirst-quenching satisfaction of knocking back a cold Corona on a sweltering August afternoon is indisputable, other parts of the world welcome cool, crisp weather as the harbinger of hearty seasonal beers. In fact, Stephen Pekarik, beverage manager and "beer guru" at The Farmhouse in Emmaus, considers autumn the optimal time for savoring more complex brews. "When I think about beer, it brings to mind images of falling leaves, chilly nights and drinking ale by a fire," he says. Even confirmed martini mavens might be swayed by the intriguing and widely varied flavors that range from rich porters to tart lambics.

Oktoberfest beers count among the most popular of limited-edition brews. These timely temptations are the central focus of Germany's Oktoberfest, a celebration which – not surprisingly – has been embraced by American culture. (Just as everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, we can all be good Germans during Oktoberfest.) Pekarik describes Oktoberfest beers as "earthy, with hints of gourds and pumpkins." The traditional bottom-fermented lagering process involves cave aging during summer, and the amber-hued product boasts a toasty malt taste, with an alcohol content between 5 and 6 percent: This highly drinkable beer is intended to be guzzled, not sipped, one frothy, brimming stein after another.

While classic German products include Spaten Oktoberfest and Paulaner Oktoberfest, domestic brewers are also creating Bavarian-inspired versions. Brewmaster Oliver Garrett of the highly-respected Brooklyn Brewery crafts an exceptionally authentic Oktoberfest beer that partners well with robust foods, and Samuel Adams Oktoberfest is another widely-available product. Locally, Weyerbacher offers a tasty twist on tradition with a velvety AutumnFest beer.

For a full-tilt Oktoberfest experience without the jet-lag, head for Adamstown – and don't be shy about donning those lederhosen at the back of your closet. The self-proclaimed "Antiques Capital of the USA" is home to Stoudts Black Angus Antique Mall, Restaurant & Pub and Brewing Company, where a German food- and music-filled Oktoberfest takes place in their Gemutlichkeit Bier Garden each Sunday in October. In addition to Stoudts Oktober Fest beer, numerous other varieties such as Black Dog Stout and Red Lady Ale are available for sampling.

Spicy autumnal pumpkin ales have been gaining popularity, though results from different brewers vary enormously, with heavy-handed doses of nutmeg being the most egregious flavor sin. Sample a bottle or glass before investing in a case, or put your trust in Pekarik, whose favorite choices include Brooklyn Brewery's Post Road Pumpkin Ale and Weyerbacher's Imperial Pumpkin Ale.

Other seasonal favorites of Pekarik include Mc Chouffe, a hearty brown, Belgian-style rendition of Scottish ale with "a yeasty aroma of fresh baked bread," and Schneider Weisse Eisbock, a wheat beer that's concentrated by freezing and removing ice crystals. "That has beautiful smells of autumn. You think of falling leaves and fire," he says.

Properly paired beer can also be an intriguing alternative to wine at Thanksgiving. Echt Kriekenbier, a Flemish cherry ale, partners well with turkey, or try a Flanders red ale, an almost wine-like style of fruity Belgian beer. "Those have hints of currants and cranberry," Pekarik notes.

Third Thursday Beer Tasting events at **The Farmhouse** – a restaurant famed for remarkable Beer Dinners, an exceptional beer list and Pennsylvania Preferred's Top Chef, Michael Adams – provide a casual opportunity for a knowledgeable introduction to the season's outstanding beers. The modestly priced events, hosted by Pekarik in the restaurant's intimate British-style pub, include tastings by Executive Chef Adams. (Who says education can't be fun – or delicious?) The October focus is "For the Love of Darkness: Belgian and Belgian-Style Dark Ales," and November's theme is "For the Love of Stout." Pekarik says, "This is something new and exciting – the possibilities are endless!" Book early, though, since these popular events are limited in size and sell out quickly. (www.thefarmhouse.com; 610-967-6225)

Other great places to further expand your beer horizons include:

Fegley's Allentown Brew Works

(www.thebrewworks.com; 610-433-7777) New, huge and oh-so-stylish, Bethlehem Brew Work's companion brewpub-restaurant features two-and-one-half stories for dining, with separate bars on the first and second floors, a sexy "Silk" lounge on the lower level, and an al fresco "Biergarten." The Hamilton Street locale features its own line-up of flagship beers, such as Pig Pen

Pilsner – named in honor of the Iron Pigs baseball team – and Pawn Shop Porter, plus fall brews (some of which are shared by both locations) like Pumpkin Ale, Hop Explosion, Hefeweizen, Bagpiper's Brew and Apricot Coriander. If that's not enough beer for you, 100 bottled varieties of imported and domestic brews are stocked as well, and the menu features a wide assortment of beer-infused dishes. Check for special GLBT-oriented "Alternative" events, including pool tournaments and more.

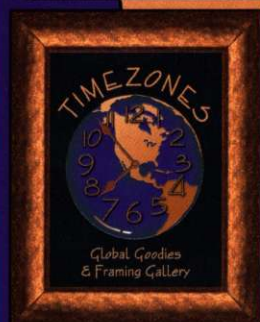
Which Brew Pub and Restaurant

(www.members.aol.com/whichbrew; 610-330-2666) This spellbinding Easton tavern – where every day feels like Halloween – is a cozy neighborhood haunt that goes well beyond being a novelty "theme" pub. Owner Kelly-Jo Ditze takes her beer seriously and ensures that the season's best offerings are available. In autumn, a rotating assortment of ten tap beers includes a trio of pumpkin ales from Weyerbacher, Smuttynose and Bethlehem Brew Works. Exotic bottled brews may range from Blackened VooDoo Lager from Louisiana and Belzebuth Pub Malt from France to Hobgoblin Ale from the highly appropriate Wychwood Brewing Company of England. If you're simply allergic to beer, try a glass of Vampire Merlot from Romania, a popular limited-quantity special. Which Brew's flamboyant Halloween Party on October 27 is a don't-miss, costume-friendly celebration!

Union Jack's on the Manatawny

(610-689-0189) Take a drive to rural Boyertown and combine a leaf-peeping autumn excursion with a world-class beer tasting adventure. The stellar collection of 300-plus bottled beers and nearly two dozen rotating taps at this bucolic pub and restaurant attracts customers from as far as Philly and Maryland. Owner Tom Stiegelmann has a passion for tracking down exotic and rare offerings such as Lindemans Peche Lambic or Russian River's Pliny the Elder that will delight the most discriminating beer connoisseurs. The sheer over-abundance may be overwhelming to the novice, but the beer list contains descriptions of brew styles – lambics, lagers, ales, stouts, etc. – with examples of each, plus detailed profiles of the latest offerings. And Stiegelmann is quite happy to make suggestions based on a customer's taste preferences.

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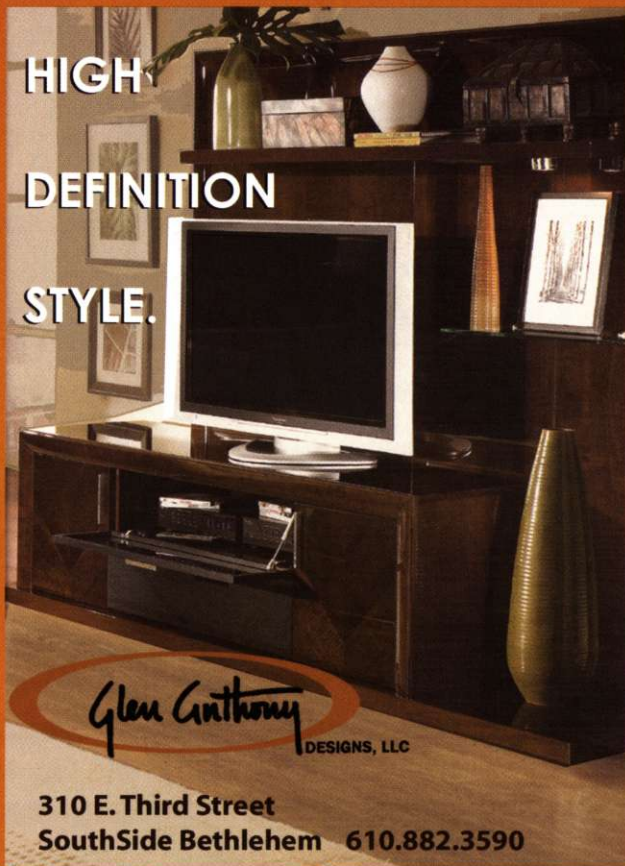
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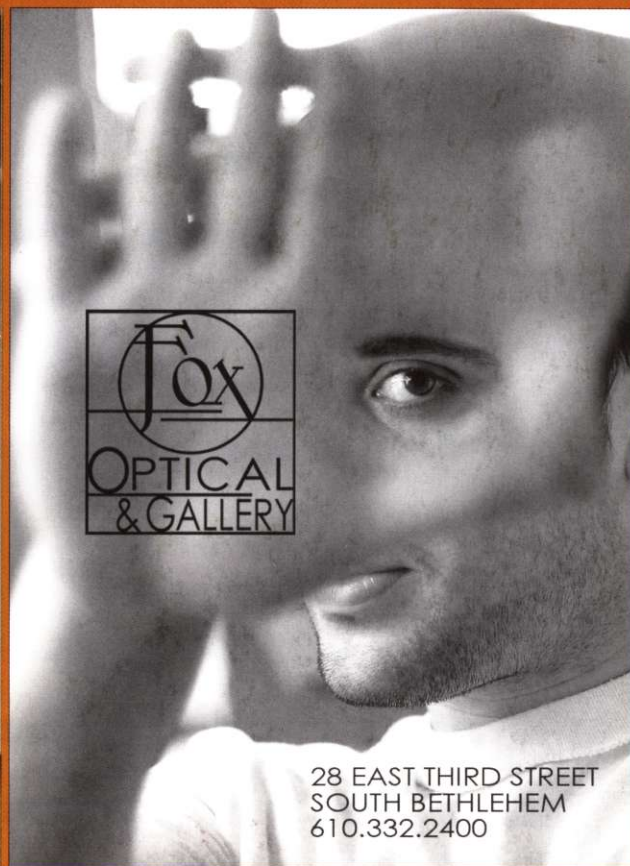
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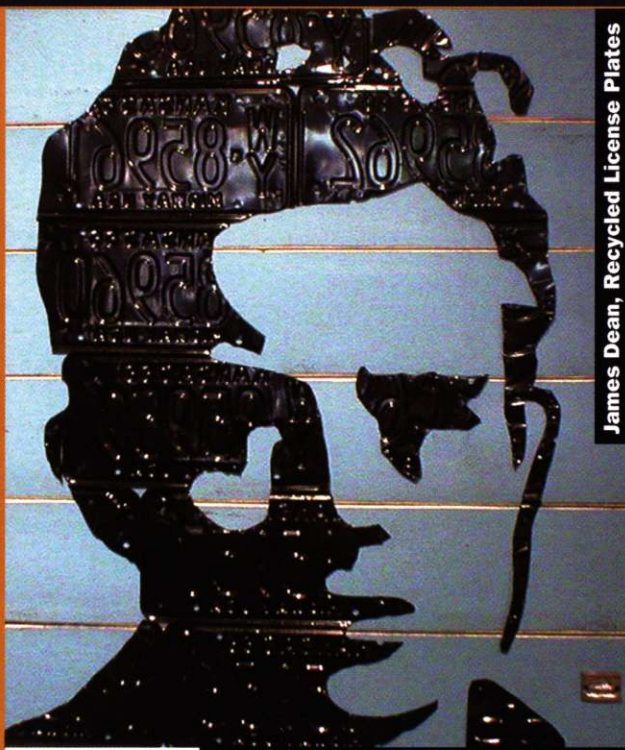
Bethlehem

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10th Christmas Open House Kickoff- Nov., Mayor & City Tree Lighting- Nov. 23

Chriskindlemart- Dec.

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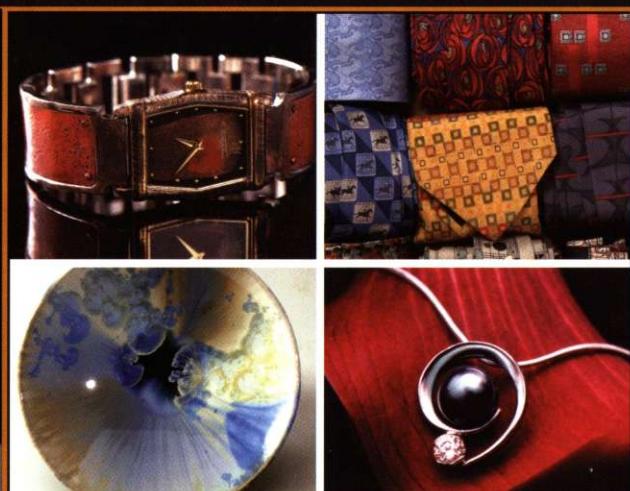


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